Couple crashes Obama state dinner **WORLD** / A28

NBI closing in on Ivler; was he a soldier? **METRO** / A25

Polanski wins $4.5-M bail, house arrest likely **WORLD** / A27

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Views

DESERTED Except for a few construction workers, no one has been seen at the palatial residence of **ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan** on an enclave of the old rich in Davao City.

Silence engulfs mansions of Ampatuans

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE MANSIONS of the Ampatuans in Jesus Subdivision here, an enclave of the old rich of Davao, have been unusually silent since Monday.

It was on Nov. 23 that armed men believed to be led by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. slaughtered at least 57 people, including members of the Maguindanao clan and at least 27 journalists, in Ampatuan town in Maguindanao.

Authorities said people belonging to the Ampatuan clan, especially those studying in universities here, had flown to Manila, leaving the mansions to caretakers.

SILENCE, A23

Ampatuan Jr. held at NBI

BEFORE THE FUNERAL Buluan Vice Mayor Bensel Mangudadatu speaks with reporters before burying his wife and four other kin, who were among those abducted and killed on Nov. 23 as they were traveling in a six-vehicle convoy to nominate him as the opposition candidate for Maguindanao governor in the 2010 elections. AFP

Andal Jr. known as 'hatchet man'

FEARED AND LOATHED BY HIS enemies, Andal Ampatuan Jr. is known as the "hatchet man" of a powerful Muslim clan in Mindanao whose family history is written in blood.

A chubby, stone-faced man in his 40s with a penchant for expensive guns, he is the son and namesake of the clan patriarch who has ruled as governor of Maguindanao province for most of this decade.

Ampatuan Jr. denies any role in this week's massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao who were allegedly targeted to end a political challenge from a rival clan.

But Ampatuan Jr. and his father have long had reputations

ANDAL JR., A23

Palace says GMA won't cut ties with Ampatuans

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is maintaining her ties with the powerful Ampatuans despite their expulsion from the ruling party and the filing of multiple murder charges against one of them in connection with the Nov. 23 massacre of at least 57 people in Maguindanao.

"I don't think the President's friendship with the Ampatuans

PALACE, A18

STILL A FRIEND Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., now in government custody, still enjoys the friendship of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Says her spokesperson: "It doesn't mean [the Ampatuans] are no longer our friends, if ever they indeed committed the crime." Ginnah Jan Tiu

'Not guilty,' says main suspect in massacre

GENERAL SANTOS City—Andal Ampatuan Jr. was in denial and even tried to hide his face behind a scarf under a barrage of questions from reporters asking if he masterminded Monday's massacre of 57 people.

"There is no truth to that," said Ampatuan, mayor of Datu Unsay town in Maguindanao, ruled by his family that is a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo. "The reason I came out is to prove that I am not hiding and that I am not guilty."

Ampatuan was placed in government custody after his brother, Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, turned him over to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza yesterday morning.

But as Major Ampatuan stepped out of the helicopter that transported him from Sharif Aguak to the airport here, the scarf was gone. He was sporting a red and blue parong, a headband usually used by Moro warriors.

Justice Secretary Agnes De-

AMPATUAN JR., A13

Probe points to mayor as prime suspect

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A GOVERNMENT TEAM TASKED to investigate the slaughter of 57 people in Maguindanao is quietly obtaining depositions from witnesses that appear to point to Andal Ampatuan Jr. as prime suspect, officials said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno also disclosed in a briefing at Camp Crame that aside from Ampatuans, four police officials had been placed under "restrictive custody" in connection with Monday's massacre.

They were Senior Supt. Agusan Magold, acting police director of the Maguindanao police office; Chief Insp. Sukarno Diong, acting deputy provincial

PROBE POINTS, A13

WITNESS A bearded man appears on Al Jazeera network.

Witness: We just followed orders

(Editors note: This story appeared yesterday on the website of the Qatar-based Arab news organization Al Jazeera.)

A MAN WHO SAYS HE WAS A witness to Monday's massacre in the southern Philippines has told Al Jazeera how he was ordered to kill members of a rival political clan—including women and children—and to make sure no evidence was left behind.

The witness, who identified himself only as "Boy," said he was among more than 100 armed men who held up a convoy of political campaigners and journalists before taking them to a remote mountainous area where they were then killed.

WITNESS, A13

Trouble with goodbye is hello . . .

By Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
in Pampanga

IT'S GOODBYE—BUT IS IT ALSO hello?

President Macapagal-Arroyo made her farewells yesterday, saying she would not take part in the National Prayer Breakfast next year.

Still, she continued to keep the public guessing on what she would do next, and maintained her silence vis-à-vis suspicion that she plans to seek a seat in the House representing the second district of her home province Pampanga.

TROUBLE, A4

Pushcart hero's arrival a ray of light in gloom

By Nina Catherine Calleja

CNN HERO OF THE YEAR Efren Peñaflorida arrived in the country on Wednesday night, somehow helping uplift the country's mood soured by the slaughter of at least 57 people in Maguindanao on Monday.

Beaming while holding the CNN plaque, Peñaflorida was welcomed by a hundred students and Dynamic Teen Co. (DTC) coaches, who screamed and waved Philippine flaglets upon seeing him.

They mobbed, hugged and kissed him, while chanting "Kuya EJ" and "Bayani!"

Reacting to the roaring crowd, a woman at the airport said, "Wow, it was pure joy!"

CNN honored Peñaflorida for starting a "pushcart class-

PUSHCART, A6

OUR HERO Efren Peñaflorida is welcomed by his parents, Efren Sr. and Lucia, on Wednesday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2D 27 31
3D 11 6
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SUERTRES 5 0 2
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6/55 DIGITEL 5 9 2 7 9 6
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PHP 6,722,985.40
6/42 SUPERLOTTO 6/45 7 24 27 33 46 47
PHP 16,000,000.00

'OPEN SEASON' FOR PREMATURE CAMPAIGNING

Comelec dismayed by SC ruling

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS YESTERDAY expressed dismay at the Supreme Court ruling that effectively decriminalizes premature campaigning, saying it would make electoral contests lopsided in favor of rich candidates.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said he was "disappointed" that the Court reversed its September 2009 decision convicting a Surigao del Norte mayor after she was found guilty of premature campaigning.

"In this ruling, we have no more premature campaigning. It defangs and decriminalizes premature campaigning. Technically, there is no more premature campaigning," Sarmiento said in an interview.

"It's Santa Claus, it's open season," he said.

However, "the decision of the Supreme Court is final and we have to follow," the commissioner said.

The high court scrapped the ban on premature campaigning when it ruled that Sta. Monica, Surigao del Norte Mayor Bonifacio Bilog's non-mentality of premature campaigning when she held a motorcade after she filed her certificate of candidacy and before the official campaign period.

The court said there is no law banning politicians from using infrastructure and putting up campaign billboards and posters even after they have filed their certificates of candidacy and before the start of the official campaign period.

Sarmiento said he the ruling would favor the moneyed candidates.

"If you are less known and lots moneyed you will be at a disadvantage because of this decision," he said.

With the decision, the provision in the Omnibus Election Code fixing a campaign period of 90 days for national candidates and 45 days for local candidates have been rendered "moot and academic," he said.

The law also paves the way for the using of the candidates' advertisements, shows and movies before the start of the campaign period. However, candidates cannot directly ask people to vote for them until the official campaign period starts.

"The campaign period for politicians seeking national positions starts 90 days before the May 10 elections, or on Feb. 9, 2010. For local contests, the period starts on March 26, or 45 days before the polls.

Although the ruling has allowed many leeway for the airing of advertisements, it does not mean that the Comelec is powerless against the abuse of election laws, said Sarmiento.

"It does not totally remove the limitations," he said.

He said the Comelec commissioners would be holding discussions to how the matters could be balanced between the "the moneyed and the less moneyed, and the known and the less known" candidates.

EARLY BIRDS Among the early filers of certificates of candidacy yesterday were Rep. Dan Almonte, former Sen. Sergio Osmeña and Gov. Rodolfo Biazon and son Rafe. Among younger set of President Aquino filed his certificate of candidacy for vice president while Kiko and daughter Bea Victoria (by photo). Osmeña (left) will seek re-election to the Senate. And the Biazons try to recapture, the son seeking to follow Biazon's and the father seeking his seat's ouster Philippines City representation.

Maguindanao massacre revives call to reimpose death penalty

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE UNSPEAKABLE scale and brutality of the killings in Maguindanao, Mindanao, have revived calls for the reimposition of the death penalty.

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, a death penalty advocate who filed a resolution last year to reimpose capital punishment, said the recent horrors in Maguindanao supported his position.

Abante, a Baptist pastor, argued that the threat of execution would be a strong deterrent to would-be criminals.

He warned of more violence in the 2010 elections appeals.

Bishop David Iyo, member of the Word of Hope Christian Family Church, who similarly favors the revival of capital punishment, said there is no contradiction between a pro-life stance and support for the death penalty.

Pushing for the death penalty is not inconsistent to support for life, he said.

"Some people say the death penalty is pro-death, not pro-life. I differ. It is pro-life, it is for preserving the lives of innocent people. If you take away criminals, you take away the possibility of [how killing again]," Senseche said, speaking in the same breath.

The Jesuit calls to revive the death penalty came in the remedy week from the shocking pictures in Maguindanao last week of some 57 civilians, including local officials, lawyers and journalists.

Halfmoon Press Club president Benny Antipuesto said he personally supports the death penalty because of what happened in Maguindanao.

where at least a dozen media colleagues were slain.

But House Speaker Prospero Nograles said the death penalty issue must first be subjected to debate, saying the killings in Maguindanao was not the issue as in other areas of the country.

"We should have collective consensus here. The problem there is not a problem... everywhere. Let's debate on it. Both provinces is unique and governed differently by local leaders," Nograles said.

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Corrections

IN THE NOV. 25 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page A3A—"Actress authorized ex-aide to act on her behalf"—misstated the license of actor Jennylyn Mercado's former aide. The lawyer of Mercado's former aide is Cornelio Sumaoang III—not Aniceto Rivera.

IN THE FIRST EDITION of the Nov. 20 issue, a front-page story—"Valte calls for repository of lahar funds"—misstated that Magalalawan town elders Isidal Angot and Jo served as mayors. Ampuan is mayor of Datu Hoffer—not Isidal Agtak.

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a photo caption on Page B6 of the Business section misstatedly identified the president of Ayala Land Global. The company president is Filipino-Swiss—not native Tan.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo receives Dr. Margaret Chan, director general of WHO, who paid a courtesy call on Malacañang yesterday. Looking on is Health Secretary Francisco Duque. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

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WHO gives RP 9M doses of H1N1 vaccine

By Dona Z. Pazybayan

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT will receive a total of nine million doses of the influenza A(H1N1) vaccines from the World Health Organization (WHO) in the coming months.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III and WHO Director-General Margaret Chan announced yesterday that both parties have signed an agreement wherein the WHO will turn over H1N1 vaccines to the Philippine government as part of its pledge to give developing countries access to the newly developed vaccines.

The Philippine government on the other hand committed to register and authorize the use of the vaccines and to notify WHO of the occurrence of any unexpected "adverse events," among others.

At a news conference, Chan said the first delivery of the vaccines, about 1.2 million doses, is expected to arrive before the end of the year.

Priority

Duque said the DOH will prioritize giving the vaccines to about 400,000 frontline health workers because they are at "higher risk of getting the disease than ordinary people due to the larger probability of exposure."

"They may also unknowingly transmit the infections to their families and other patients with other illnesses," he added.

"The vaccines will be given free of charge and will be given to those who will volunteer," Duque stressed.

Most recent patients, said Duque, are pregnant women because they are 10 times more at risk of needing intensive care if infected compared to the general population.

Within range

This is followed by those with chronic conditions and children aged six months to 59 years old, then children five years old and below and adults beyond 60 years old from 60 or otherwise] because they are considered to be at the highest risk of severe infection," and lastly, the remainder of the population.

To reports of some cases in other countries of fatal allergic reactions to the H1N1 vaccines, Chan said the rate of side effects was "within the expected range."

She said the vaccines, whose production were rushed in response to the outbreak of the new influenza virus in May, have been administered to more than 17 million people.

"If you look at the risks and the large number of people vaccinated with the vaccine, the rate of side effects is within the expected range. In fact based on the evidence coming from all the countries we can say that the pandemic vaccine is similar to the seasonal influenza vaccine [which] has been used for more than 50 years," Chan said.

'Vaccine is safe'

"So to that extent, the vaccine is safe and but it is important that every country must also put in place what you call post-vaccination safe after surveillance as part of the agreement," she added.

Duque said the Department of Health is still enacting its best efforts to prevent any to one P1.08 million worth of vaccines.

"We have to understand however the reality that because the global manufacturing capacity is limited, supplies may be initially inadequate and not readily to be augmented," he said.

DOH records as of Dec. 20 showed 10 people have died out of 5,415 confirmed cases of influenza A H1N1, representing a 0.5 percent case fatality rate.

"We stress that more than 99 percent of the cases have recovered," said Duque, who noted that no new cases have been reported in the last two months.

3,445 Pinoys in Mecca for Hajj

A TOTAL OF 3,445 FILIPINO pilgrims are now in Saudi Arabia for this year's Hajj pilgrimage, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Quoting a report from the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah, the DFA said the pilgrims came aboard 13 different flights from Manila and entered Saudi Arabia through Medinah or Jeddah.

The first flight of the pilgrims, numbering some 350, arrived on Oct. 28 while the last flight bringing the remaining pilgrims from the Office of Muslim Affairs came in on Nov. 19.

Representative Pangalian Balindong of the 2nd District, Lanao del Sur is among Hajj leaders of students to delegations from the Philippines.

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Peaceful polls in Maguindanao a big challenge for Comelec

By Lolita B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SHOULD now begin working to ensure peaceful and honest elections in Maguindanao following the killings in the province linked to a political rivalry, according to a party-list lawmaker.

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello also said that he believed the Comelec, rather than the Armed Forces, should be in charge of the province.

"Malacañang should not deputize troops to maintain peace in the area, for this will simply aggravate a cycle of violence that has ravaged the communities in the ferocious Region 12 Moro Mindanao," Bello said in a statement.

He said the Comelec should be in command, and it would direct the police and the military to begin disarming the warlords in the province, a task that should have been done long ago. These actions would pave the way for the holding of peaceful polls in the region, he added.

"The Comelec should at least ensure that there will be a secure environment for the conduct of peaceful elections in the region. Without basic security, the very integrity and validity of elections will surely be compromised," he said.

Managing the elections in Maguindanao after the bloodshed would also be a test on the poll body's mettle, the lawmaker added.

"This is definitely a litmus test for the Comelec, to prove that it can manage competitive, popular and fair elections in a very tense atmosphere," Bello said.

He also said those found involved in the killings should be barred from running in next year's elections.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo for his part said that Malacañang should be taking more decisive actions, such as recalling Executive Order 546 that allowed local officials and the police to deputize barangay tanods (village militias) as "force multiplier" in the anti-insurgency campaign.

Ocampo told local officials had used the EO to fund their private armed groups and turn them into legal entities under the "immunee zone" civilian-volunteer organizations.

"Three years later, it's proven that the CVOs are nothing but private armies who kill at the slightest whim and wish of their warlord bosses. The Maguindanao massacre is the handiwork of one such private army," Ocampo said in a statement.

Authorities should also begin disbanding the CVOs and other legalized private armies, he added.

He also said that the police should explain why it refused to provide escorts to the victims despite the "common knowledge" that a clash between the Ampatuans and the Mangudadatus was brewing.

More rains seen in South

A LOW-PRESSURE AREA EAST OF THE country is expected to bring more rains to Mindanao and the Visayas through the weekend.

The low-pressure area is estimated to be 520 kilometers east of Mindanao, according to a 5 p.m. weather update of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday.

As a result, Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms and flash floods.

The Visayas will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated thunderstorms.

Luzon, including Metro Manila, will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated light rains.

The northeast monsoon is also affecting the coastal areas of Luzon, Pagasa said.

A low-pressure system is an area of weather in which the barometric pressure is lower than the surrounding air and usually means that cloudy or stormy weather is at hand. Alexis Fajar

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Pushcart hero arrives

From page A1

room" to bring education to poor children as an alternative to going unsupervising.

He created a program that brings books to children in slums and on the streets. His DTC has brought reading, writing and hygiene to 3,500 children.

Clad in T-shirt and jeans, Bebelbeldo arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (the Old Street) flight (WG018) at 11:25 p.m.

The 28-year-old native of Cavite City will be marrying the bride of Calamba from President Municipal Intramuros.

Bebelbeldo is the fourth and other provinces to honor his deeds have also been pursued.

The CNN hero said on Wednesday night that he was requesting a dozen days ahead—except that he was scheduled to meet Ms Arroyo in Malacañang for a courtesy call.

Kuya El won't charge

"I will still push carts. Don't think Kuya El has changed. I just want all the selfless and heartwarming Filipinos," Bebelbeldo said.

His mother Lucida said on host would await her son at home.

"We don't have money. What if/we get from the award was set his," Lucida said four days before arriving how proud she was for her son.

Lucida, who earns money from reselling fish crackers in the market, said that when the family earned was just enough for their daily needs.

"He knows that. And he might get used to as if we prepare a lavish treat," she said.

EFREN Bebelbeldo is welcomed at the airport by one of his students, 10-year-old Cris Valdez.

Bebelbeldo said he would build a center for learning somewhere that is accessible to street children.

He said 90 percent of the $1,000 cash prize given to him by CNN would go to DTC for its expansion, while 10 percent would be donated to the Church.

He received $100,000 for being named CNN Hero of the Year and $25,000 for earlier making it to the the top 10 CNN Heroes.

"We are happy to say that the pushcart classrooms have been replicated in various places in Metro Manila, Bacolod, Zamboanga, and so far so Davao and Indonesia," Bebelbeldo said.

Inspiration

He said the CNN award served as an inspiration for Filipinos who have a heart for families. "We just need to open our eyes and listen for those who need help the most," he said.

A Full Gate teacher at Brina Ridge School in Cavite, the CNN Hero remains a bachelor with no girlfriend at 28 years old.

"There were no candidates at all because this is a calling and I enjoy helping the kids," he said.

Asked about his ambition in the absence of civilians and journalists in Maguindanao, Bebelbeldo said he was not aware of the killings while he was abroad until a CNN employee told him about it.

"I [suffer] of CNN was the one who first told me. And I was really shocked and saddened," he told the reporters.

As employees at The Brain learned said, Bebelbeldo's action might change the country's mood at least briefly.

Today, Bebelbeldo is expected to get a hero's welcome in his home province of Cavite.

Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, who also welcomed Bebelbeldo at the airport, said the provincial government would donate P1 million for Bebelbeldo's pushcart classrooms.

Maliksi has also offered Bebelbeldo a job at the provincial capitol as consultant for education.

e-bike EXCEED

Trouble with goodbye is hello . . .

From page A1

The suspicion over senate ruled, with the Pampanga Mayors' League (PML) setting the stage for her political comeback.

La Bebelbeldo No. 77 signed by 20 town mayors in a special session, the PML urged Ms Arroyo to "heed the clarion from her constituency to run as second district representative in ... Pampanga."

Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, the PML president and a partner of Ms Arroyo's, said the resolution was signed two weeks ago. The document got a copy from a source in Malacañang on Wednesday.

Ms Arroyo is a registered voter in Lubao, the hometown of her husband Mike Arroyo. She represented Pampanga's second district from 1998 to 2001.

Lubao is among the six towns in the second district, the several who-cheh area in Pampanga after the 2003 district.

No reply

The PML said Ms Arroyo should seek a seat in the House of Representatives because "unelected, she, all the towns and barangays of the second district [have received] benevolence from Her Excellency."

Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the President's eldest son, did not answer questions on whether his mother would head the "Arroyo."

Now on his second term as the second district's representative, Mikey Arroyo likewise did not reply to the questions of whether he would give way to his mother if and when.

The President has made numerous visits to Pampanga, attending a variety of local activities including the inauguration of many subdivisions and sundry gatherings of local officials.

Early this week, there was local talk that she would file her certificate of candidacy by tomorrow. But Malacañang and Lubao Rizal Cliff officials continued to claim that even they were in the dark about her plans.

But on Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who is thinking of running for a congressional seat in Batangas, admitted that he was thrilled by the idea of joining Ms Arroyo in the House in Cha'am.

"Whatever she might be, of course, our association will be something to look forward to because she is the President ... There is always the thrill of being with the President," he remarks said.

He said Ms Arroyo go for it, she will go down in history as the first Philippine president to abdicate to a lower position.

Nostalgia

Ms Arroyo delivered remarks at the 24th National Prayer Breakfast held yesterday morning at Malacañang Park.

"We are entering our election year," she said. "This is the last National Prayer Breakfast I will be joining you as President. This time next year, another leader of our country will hopefully break bread with you in common prayer and fellowship."

Ms Arroyo wanted nostalgic, recalling a past National Prayer Breakfast that she had attended, and taking stock of issues during around her.

"In 1997, I attended a Breakfast Prayer Breakfast here as well, and it was held in Malacañang Park, and I thought then I would report that because I felt that on the grounds of this historic site, we can be inspired, we can have profound insights that come only from purposeful communion with the Lord.

Actually, I wanted it quite frankly, but I understand that the organizers wanted it to be more compact here. So I said, let's consider the rain. They don't have to cover the food. They have to cover the people. So the rain was ... here, so you would feel the heat of the sun on meals, because it is important that we have some prayer and comfort as we pray and meditate on the things that we should pray and think about today."

She took the occasion to seek Easter Parishioners on the May 2010 elections, the run-up to which was marred by the mass killing in Maguindanao on Nov. 23.

"So we go about the process of selecting that leader and officials candidates next year, I ask for every prayers that the process shall no longer be marred by violence and strife," she said.

47 visits

Philippine Information Agency records showed that as of Wednesday the Presidential had made 47 visits to Pampanga's second district this year. Of these visits, 16 were in Lubao.

Mrs Despard Arroyo have hinted speculations that she is planning to seek a reapportionment of seat in order to lead a move in the House of Representatives to amend the Constitution and change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary.

"[It] is time to [Philippine] political history [has a] band of state guns [out of] the way to rise and reach our [to] people in hundreds of communities. Time and now just re-control her passion for service," the mayors said in the resolution certified by the PML secretary general, Manilo Illuyo Edgardo Flores, and approved by Lubao Mayor Pineda.

The mayors said Ms Arroyo had "an exemplary track record and persuasive public addresses" that uses "beyond reproach."

They said her "consistency and focus to achieve goals for progress and development" had allowed her entries.

On the phone with the Inquirer, Orlando Mercado said the President Municipal Arroyo for Congressional Movement had "term."

"Now they found it necessary and joined me in the open," said Mercado. Ms Arroyo's former adviser on political matters.

Since September, Mercado had been distributing leaflets calling on Ms Arroyo to run in the second district.

Give way to others

Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio said he "respected" the PML for its decision.

"[But] I still believe that [Ms Arroyo] should also heed the call of other people to give way to other leaders who can serve Kapampangans in an efficient and effective way," he said.

A member of Inconstant coalition bringing to subjugate and every groups said the residents of the second district might resort to a "spare revolt" by not supporting Ms Arroyo.

"The general perception is that the second district is loyal to [her]. That is not true. We used to be proud of her," the source said. The situation [is her administration] are wrong," said a pastor who declined to be named to avoid harassment by local politicians.

The Inconstant coalition was born out of the mayors' workshop from University of the Philippines professors Nandy David and former Pampanga First Gov Cielo Mangagal-Salgado. Ms Arroyo's oldest half-sister.

But both David and Salgado, who are among the people identified as Ms ROXAS' possible challengers, declined.

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Angry journalists march to condemn killings

By Jeannen Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—WEARING BLACK shirts and armbands, some 150 journalists, including newspaper editors, and radio commentators and anchors, marched here on Thursday to denounce the mass killing of at least 27 of their colleagues in Maguindanao.

"We condemn the killings of the journalists and innocent civilians in Maguindanao and we are asking the police for a swift resolution of the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice," said Elias Barquero, president of the Cebu Federation of Boat Journalists.

The marchers, who assembled for nearly all of the media practitioners in the city, marched from JY Square in Lahug at 10:30 a.m. toward the Mercedes B. Rotoni Cebu Press Center, where a resolution of the federation was read.

Among the speakers were Sunstar editor in chief Padmes Sinaya, broadcasting commentator Ben Bedelosin of radio dyHI and DWM 7, and lawyer Staff Bufete Gonzalez dyHB.

"I'm happy that despite the short notice, some of our colleagues attended and that's because the killing of innocent civilians, including the journalists, was unacceptable and inhumane," Baquero said.

Lawyer-journalists

The Cebu Media Legal Aid Center also released a statement of condemnation.

"The Maguindanao massacre already stands out for its sadistic brutality and enmity and utter contempt of the state's will. What men call endeavor in accord of inhumanity is when the government fails to mete out the punishment the perpetrators justly deserve," said in the statement signed by nine lawyers, who are also media practitioners.

"We don't call for the lynching of the suspects though many of our people may want that, but demand through that the apparatus of law and order and the schools of justice move swiftly unimpeded by the guiles of wealth and power," it said.

The statement was signed by lawyers Eddie Barrera, Pinkal "Bingo" Gonzales, Frida Quintorelo, Pedro Rentiro, Lucille Rivera-Moldong-Feliciano, Elias Espinosa, Petrochee Mahilog Ir., Maria Zee Soares-Del Rosario and Rosemarie Sevescio.

In Legaspi City, at least 100 journalism students, who also wore black shirts and armbands, joined a candle-lighting vigil at the Bicol University College of Arts and Letters on Wednesday night to pray for the massacre victims.

Bicol University, with a student population of 19,000, is the only state university that offers a journalism program in the region.

"There is an inevitable risk in the profession. But for as long as I know my limits, I will not be threatened," said Julius Rodillo, 19, a senior journalism student.

"Tama nga atu dinhi na mong a south-dding (It's Australian) should calculate the odds right," he said.

Rodillo wrote a black shirt he borrowed from his journalism teacher and painted with the message, "Stop killing Journalists."

Lessons for media students

"It is noble to commemorate the triumph that the state journalists set, the courage they displayed to cover a historical event in the South," Rodillo said. But, he said, there were also lessons that aspiring journalists could learn from the tragedy.

"I have learned that journalism should always put self-preservation first as an incentive," Rodillo said.

"Similarly in that current has-prises in any civilized society, it's more than an affront to freedom of expression," said Prof. Lee Inumerez, head of the journalism department of Bicol University.

Online protest

On the social networking site Facebook, communication students from Aquinas University, also in Legaspi, posted a statement condemning the senseless and sobbing international human rights groups to intervene in order to promote the Philippine government to serve justice to the victims.

A student from Ateneo de Naga University created a Facebook photo showing a black photo and a "Stop Killing Journalists" tag that was used by many in their profile photos on social networking sites as sign of protest and mourning.

Dr. Jolito Bawen, Bicol University's arts and Letters dean, said the members of the journalism students showed that they were aware of pressing issues in society and that they understood their chosen field of profession.

Opposition

In Manila, the leaded opposition UNDI criticized Malacañang for giving a "knee recess" to their opponent rather to stop media killings.

"Kit Wiskowsing to say it does not have full control of the situation and for administration officials to flag condemning by saying they are only human...a is sad that the present administration has failed to govern, that it has failed to enforce the rule of law," said UNDI president Antonio Bitao.

"Under the present administration, journalism has become a dangerous profession. And when most media killings go unresolved, it only emboldens criminal elements to go after journalists," Bitao said in a statement.

"Unless the administration takes decisive action to bring the killers of journalists to justice, it cannot escape the criticism that it is tolerating these criminal acts," he said. With reports from Jo-Anne M Ebaña, Zyle-ann Aguilar and Annie Ushiba Nebia, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Alison W. Lopez in Manila

BURYING THEIR DEAD Maguindanao family members and friends hold helping hands as lay their dead to rest in Buluan, Maguindanao. At left, they pray as in anger, grief strikes as close loved ones' kin. Below, a family member releases a chicken into the open grave—a local custom symbolizing a call for justice for murdered kin.

Church urges fast action in Maguindanao

LEADERS OF THE Catholic Church and other sectors yesterday called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to swiftly act against the perpetrators of the unprecedented election-related carnage in Maguindanao.

It took the government three days to take custody of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. of Datu Unsay town, a prime suspect in the massacre. The mayor, a son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., a political ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was flown to Manila under the custody of presidential adviser Jesus Dureza.

The Commission on Human Rights described as a "good start" the government's taking custody of Mayor Ampatuan.

Appalled

Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales said he was appalled that the abduction and killings "could be carried out in broad daylight with intolerable brazenness and efficiency. But it seemed the perpetrators were confident that they could not be made accountable for it."

In a statement, Rosales called on the President to "exercise leadership more forcefully, "to find this great wound on our national psyche and on our democratic institutions be bandaged and healed before it opens up into more tragic consequences."

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who has jurisdiction over Maguindanao, also demanded that the government "use all its power" and apply the full force of the law on the perpetrators.

Issuing a statement three days after the massacre, he asked the grieving families and friends of the victims not to seek vengeance "for the sake of honor[, ty" must show will be no end to the cycle of violence.

Unprecedented

Quevedo said the massacre was unprecedented in the history of the area "and perhaps anywhere in Cotabato in terms of "ferocity, brutality and brazenness."

He, however, said that everyone was in shame for the brutal massacre. Senators and politicians had followed "a culture of impunity" in duties.

"Political administrations and officials from all parties from the 1950s to the present have cultivated and exploited to their own advantage a social structure of traditional leadership ... We have not tried to change the culture of political convenience and thus allowed a culture of impunity to endure through successive administrations.

"Elections have not and will not change this situation. We simply get more of the same," Quevedo said.

The Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) said the massacre was "indicative of the culture of violence that has been tolerated by the administration inflicted by a known ally, maintaining the country, and secondarily by warlords and a local assault on the freedom of the press.

"We call for an end to violence and death. We beseech everyone to maintain peace and order ... a spirit of vengeance and retaliation," said AMRSP co-chairs Sr. Mary John Mananzan and Fr. Jesus Mahi in a statement.

"In the midst of violence and death, the government must act to protect its citizens. It must protect those who seek to engage in the electoral process in an honest and peaceful manner. It must protect those who practice the noble profession of journalism. The killings of journalists strike at the very core of our democratic rights—free speech," Mananzan and Jesus Mahi said.

Votes at any cost

The Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag) said the massacre of innocents in Maguindanao was a direct result of Mr Arroyo's obsession with votes at any cost.

"By pandering to warlords in exchange for votes, Arroyo has created small kingdoms in the provinces ruled by local tyrants and their private armies," Flag chair Jose Manuel I. Diokno said in a statement.

"By militarily disregarding human rights, she has spawned a culture of violence and impunity where even the most terrible crimes have gone unpunished," Diokno said.

He said no government of decent repute would allow such atrocities, especially of this proportion, to go unpunished.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) called on the government to prosecute and file cases against the perpetrators within 15 days or unable to endure the people's faith in the country's criminal justice system and the electoral process.

The victims include two IBP members, Concepcion Brizuela of South Cotabato chapter and Cynthia Oppus-da of South Cotabato chapter.

The Australian Embassy in Manila yesterday expressed deep concern over the increasing lawlessness in Mindanao and urged all aspirants in the 2010 elections "to participate in the political process in a lawful and peaceful way."

The United Nations Child is challenging the government "to put its words into action by swiftly serving justice to the victims.

Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday asked the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to hold the Philippine government accountable for bringing the perpetrators of the carnage to justice.

"There should be no sacred cows in the investigation. President Arroyo must exercise the full force of the law to give justice to those who sacrificed their lives and to their families," Sen. Eddie Villanueva of Bangon Pilipinas Party said.

Gilbert "Obet" Teodoro Jr., standard bearer of the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD party, said the "government needs to be more forceful in this case but it should not do anything that would ignite more hostility."

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Nikko Dizon, Michael Lim Ubac, Abigail L. Ng, Cynthia D. Balana, and Beverly T. Rivera in Manila; Charlie C. Arturo, Inquirer Mindanao

Ampatuan Jr. held at NBI jail in Manila

Frontpage A2

...residents wanted two hours for the arrival of Ampatuans, accompanied by Davids. The mayor was then led to the suspect's VIP lounge for a transient inquest at midafternoon after his lawyers, Siegfried Fortun, arrived.

Samad Mangudadatu, the city mayor of Buluan town whose wife, two sisters and two lawyers were among the 57 killed while en route to file his certificate of candidacy for governor of Maguindanao in the May elections, was visibly enraged.

He tried to raise his fist toward Ampatuan, who was just a meter away, striking. But agents of the National Bureau of Investigation intervened.

Mangudadatu later told reporters he was enraged but that he had to control his anger. "I don't know what I could do, but I still will come out. Whatever the court decides, should be accepted," he said in Filipino.

'We want justice'

His brother, Buluan Mayor Datukan Mangudadatu, said: "We want justice. We leave this to the law ... We are educated. We do not kill people," Khodafar said.

During the hour inquest at the airport, state prosecutors heard probable cause evidence given by police, victims' relatives and Private Ampatuan himself.

Dressmakers told reporters after the hearing their prosecutors would evaluate the evidence and decide by the weekend whether criminal charges would be brought against the Ampatuans.

"Wait until we come out with our resolution in 36 hours," Dressmakers said, when asked if charges would be laid.

At the hearing, victims' relatives asked prosecutors to charge Ampatuans with multiple murder.

At 3:10 p.m., Ampatuan was flown to Manila, where he arrived about three hours later. He was then whisked off to the NBI office in Manila under tight security.

Davids told the inquirer that Ampatuan would be held at the NBI jail "for as long as needed" based on the agreement between the complainants and the accused.

Dressmakers said last night in Manila that prosecutors were working overnight on a charge sheet for multiple murders to be filed today in the Cotabato City Regional Trial Court.

Allah will take care of them

But Ibrahim Mangudadatu told the inquirer his family was not yet satisfied because the other murderers were at large. "The massacre was planned. All those involved should be held to account," he said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE: Ampatuans

THE 2001 2004 AND 2007 elections brought victories for the Ampatuans of Maguindanao—led for their Mulondang office several.

In 2004, then Datuk Ampatuan Sr., this patriarch, won a second term of office while his son and grandson were reelected to the House of Representatives.

His running mate, vice-Governor Bimbo Sinsuat, won in his re-election.

In Datu Unsay town, Datuk Ampatuan Jr. was unopposed as mayor. He also mayor was his brother Datuk Ampatuan.

Another son of Ampatuan Sr., Zaldy, was unopposed as mayor of Shariff Aguak. Still another son, Anwar, was reelected vice mayor.

In Datu Saudi Ampatuan town, Governor Ampatuan's grandson, Datuk Ampatuan Jr. was elected mayor, while his nephew Datuk Ahmad B. Ampatuan, was proclaimed vice mayor.

In Mamasapano town, Akmad M. Ampatuan, son-in-law of Governor Ampatuan, and Nasik, a cousin, were in mayor and vice mayor, respectively.

More Ampatuans

In Ampatuan town, brothers Raoul Sangki and Zacaria Sangki, grand nephews of Ampatuan Sr., were proclaimed mayor and vice mayor, respectively.

The elder Ampatuan's nephew, Bongo Junior Sinsuat, won Senior Councilorship, also got reelected as representative.

Ampatuan Jr. was a known ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo. During the 2004 presidential election, Mr. Arroyo won most of the votes in Maguindanao province.

Her running mate, vice-President Noli de Castro, won in his re-election.

Maguindanao was one of the provinces mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal involving wiretapped conversations supposedly between Mrs. Arroyo and her then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on rigging votes in Maguindanao in 2004. Both Mr. Arroyo and Garcillano denied allegations of wrongdoing.

2007 elections

In May 2007, Governor Ampatuan and several other Maguindanao officials were unopposed in the elections.

The administration's Team Unity nominated candidates also included a 12-0 sweep to Maguindanao, with Sen. Luis "Chavit" Singson as topnotch.

Singson's No. 1 showing in Maguindanao clearly consistent with his nationwide ranking. The Nationalist Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) had put his win at the 23rd spot.

Other Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu said at the time that, according to reports he had received from the field, "there was no actual conduct of election in many parts of Maguindanao."

Kabalu also quoted MILF members and supporters as saying that election materials did not arrive until voting polling premises in the province.

No-elections

In an interview, a voucher who acted as a member of the board of election inspectors (BEI) named Assil Guiamelon of Election Consolidated affiliate, the police and the military of controlling fraud.

The voucher said on election day, actually took place in Maguindanao. Among teachers were ordered to fill out the ballots on the eve of the voting. She said Namfrel representatives were prohibited from entering voting centers in Shariff Aguak.

In an affidavit, a 31-year-old man said he and his fellow BEI members were taken from the treasurer's office on May 14 and brought to a known patch where they filled out ballots while armed men stood by.

Maguindanao provincial administrator Hadji Esmi said many of executive candidates were held by Governor Ampatuan with officials of the local government units.

Esmi said our objective of the consolidation was to get people to vote as a bloc under threat of sanctions.

Shot dead

In June 2007, two days before the Comelec office in Manila was to host allegations of poll fraud, Maguindanao officials filed in opposition Akmad Ampatuan Jr. was shot dead. He was among those who lodged opposite alleged election irregularities in Maguindanao.

Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel (R-Nat) of the opposition, who ranked 13th in the May 14 polls, questioned the Maguindanao results and sought a temporary restraining order (TRO) from the Supreme Court.

On July 13 that year, the high court, voting in a dead heat at 7-7, denied the writ for the postponement of Team Unity's Sen. Miguel Zubiri in the country's 12th elected senator. At least eight votes were need. of for the grant of a TRO.

Compiled by Elmo Pickerin, Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

DAFU UNSAT NIKTOR ANDAL AMPATUAN JR. (center in cap), son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., is escorted by authorities and family members as he surrenders inside the Maguindanao Capitol grounds in Shariff Aguak. AP PHOTO

The two mayors who asked journalists to closely watch the progress of the case to avoid a whitewash.

"Let our family make the sacrifice. Allah will take care of them," he said. "The blood that many of your colleagues shed would not go to waste."

Mayor Ampatuan is the son of the Maguindanao governor, a Muslim clan chief of the same name who during his rule gave Mr Arroyo and his allies victories in the presidential election of 2004 and the senatorial contest in 2007.

The elder Ampatuan had been governing his namesake son to take over as governor of Maguindanao. The victims' relatives alleged that Ampatuan organized the murders so that Mangudadatu would not run in that post.

The attackers buried the victims in a common hillside and attacked them with M-16 rifles and machetes.

27 journalists slain

The 57 dead included 27 journalists and up to 15 motorists police, like the reporters, had no known quarrels with the Ampatuans, and Lt. Col. Jonathan Powis, a military spokesperson.

The 15 motorists murdered to the Mangudadatus were shoved at least two vehicles that happened to drive past on the road, you are stopped by the gunmen, Powis added.

Police confirmed the crash around the time of the mass graves yesterday, but no more bodies were found, Powis said.

Police and troops deployed in Maguindanao province, where 347 members of the Special Color Action Auxiliary was placed by the provincial government.

"All security people are also possible suspects," said Director Andres Caro of the Philippine National Police. "We are investigating them, those or how it will reveal after 48H, including cops and families."

Provincial officials are suspects

Four senior policemen from Maguindanao had also been brought to Manila for questioning about their roles in the massacre, all policemen from Ampatuan town were being considered suspects, according to Inspector Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

He said he had also recommended to Mr Arroyo that all provincial officials be suspended and that Ampatuan Jr be investigated for his personal links to the murders.

The town's entire police force has been able to act as quickly as many wanted because local police and soldiers were suspected of being loyal to the Ampatuans.

"It was very difficult for us to rely on the local military and police because we are in the area of influence of the central headquarters on both the armed forces and police side," he said.

Puno said he had warned the family they visited a military airfield under they turned over Ampatuan by soldiers yesterday.

Maguindanao province of Maguindanao Hadji Esmi said the Team Unity's survey result of executive candidates would be Governor Ampatuan with officials of the local government units.

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Compiled by Elmo Pickerin, Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

As the helicopter carrying Ampatuan took off from Shariff Aguak, there rang out but the shriek was not his, said Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, chief of the Eastern Mindanao Command. It wasn't clear who fired the shots.

Maguindanao tense

Ferrer said the area around the Maguindanao capital was tense after troops disarmed the soldiers loyal to the Ampatuans. Both soldiers and police are on alert as soldiers flock to the military and police in fighting rebels and criminals but often serve as political private armies.

The military deployed tanks and truckloads of troops throughout the province under a state of emergency in Iran down the attackers and prevent retaliatory violence from the victims' clan.

And despite more than 1,000 extra soldiers being sent into Maguindanao to restore order, the military said most of the suspects in Ampatuan's gubernatorial office to have control out the massacre were still on the run.

"Most of the armed group that perpetrated this evil have been cut away towards the mountainous area of Maguindanao," said Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. "That is where we are conducting our pursuit operations."

Palace welcomes surrender

Malacañang yesterday welcomed the surrender of Ampatuan.

"The taking in, inquest and the subsequent filing of charges against Datu Unsay [Mayor] Ampatuan is just the beginning," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said. "President Arroyo wants all the culprits punished without fear or favor."

Cayo said that investigators were not ruling out the involvement of Ampatuan Jr. said Zaldy Ampatuan in the massacre.

"We are also looking into that," Cayo said.

Cayo explained the situation on the ground was complex because of several factors.

"This is an autonomous regional government area. There is armed and immediate threat from MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] groups. There are local politics and traditional culture and we have to admit to that that some of our local executives are in some way were at very under influence of political leaders," he said. "We cannot trust the local forces or we have to import troops based on outside," he said.

With reports by Jaime B. Laude, Jet-Ar S. Ocampo, Christine Avendaño, Jhunex D. Sinocruz, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerome Aning, Nikko Dizon, Jeannette I. Andrade, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Leila B. Salaverria, Nef Luistrosa, Agaton Z. Zamin, Rona Rilge U. de Guzman, Dennis Jay Santos, Charlie Señase and Ayla S. Alpuche, AP, AFP and Reuters

Palace says GMA won't cut ties with Ampatuans

Frontpage A4

...will be severed," Lomibao Fajardo, her deputy spokesperson, told reporters yesterday in Filipino. "Just because they're in the situation doesn't mean we will sever our ties to them."

Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., a son and namesake of the governor of Maguindanao, is the prime suspect in what has been described as the worst election-related violence in the Philippines.

But Director Andres Caro of the Philippine National Police said earlier that many of the detainees also in the town resident.

Still, Fajardo told reporters at a press briefing in Malacañang, "It doesn't mean that they are no longer our friends, if ever they indeed committed the crime."

The Palace's position contradicts that of administration standard-bearer Gilbert Teodoro, who, in his capacity as chief of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, summoned the expulsion of Ampatuan Jr. Also expelled were Ampatuan Sr. and his elder son, Sen. Zaldy Ampatuan, of the Administration Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"The Ampatuans were stripped of party membership for their failure to uphold party ideals and principles to their core of patriotism, specifically, relating to the peaceful, legal and democratic pursuit and exercise of political power," the official said. Miguel Dominguez, the party vice chair, said on Wednesday night.

Separate roles

Reminded by reporters of how the Ampatuans helped ensure the victory of the ruling party in the opposition-stranded Senate, Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004, and how they delivered an astonishing 12-0 sweep in Maguindanao for the administration's senatorial roster in 2007, Fajardo said Mr Arroyo's role as President should be viewed as "separate" from her function as a political ally of the clan.

"Even if they have a relation-ship as friends or political allies, that should not hinder [her] from being the President who would make sure that the law should apply to everyone," Fajardo said.

She shirked a reporter's question on the importance of the clan to Mr Arroyo's ally and the expected initial difficulty of authorities even in getting Ampatuans Jr. for questioning.

"If you're saying how important [the Ampatuans are] politically, let us separate the issue for now because the President is no longer making statements," Fajardo said.

Prayers for the dead

With expressions of shock and outrage still resonating in from partners and institutions both here and abroad, Ms Arroyo began her day by offering prayers for the victims of the mass massacre, especially for bring the perpetrators to justice.

She exhorted Filipinos to pray not only for justice in Maguindanao but also for an end to the political violence that had been plaguing the country for years.

"We gather here today in the shadow of the tragedy that barbarously been inflicted upon so many of our brothers and sisters in Mindanao," the President said at the 34th National Prayer Breakfast held at Malacañang Park.

"It was a blight on our nation—men and women, young and old, innocent bystanders and journalists—all are victims of a shameful crime that has no place in civilized society," she said.

The crime "cries for the fullest measure of retribution from our institutions of justice," she said.

The breakfast meeting, organized by the Philippine International Prayer Breakfast Foundation Inc., coincided with the national day of prayer and mourning Mr Arroyo had declared.

Nothing specific

Mr Arroyo promised that those responsible for the crime would be brought to justice, but said nothing about how the government would deal with the families whose loved ones were slain.

"No, there is no conclusion time in the least, but on the effort hand, on earth, there is a system of justice and the perpetrators will not find a way to escape justice," she said.

The President also spoke out against not rallied for us and to political violence, calling it "a sad legacy of our nation."

"My had made considerable progress in protecting our people from such violence in the last two years. Now, let us pray today that the events of this week will not become this nation from breaking the bonds of trust that should unite political parties," she said, adding:

"The question is not who is going to win, it should be: Why do Filipinos fight over issues that can't be resolved by violence but by a democratic process?

"Let us pray for the grace to understand the severity of these pains of the country that have known much violence, so that as we move quickly, as we aim to develop the economy in these areas where there is peace."

Peace in Mindanao

Ms Arroyo called on Filipinos to pray for peace in the country, specifically in Mindanao, and the affirmation of the people's commitment to human rights and human dignity.

"I call on the two contingents not to yield the conscience of the nation. Even this day let us pray that the grieving relatives and friends of the victims be granted the solace of faith and peace of mind," she said.

"Let us pray that the burden of anger and revenge be lifted from their hearts so that they may become instruments of a return to peace rather than the continuation of violence."

The President also sought prayers for peace to reign among Muslims, Christians and indigenous people in Mindanao.

"It will show other multicultural communities that there can be ground on which to live together in peace, harmony and cooperation that respects each other's religious and even political beliefs," she said.

The religious of Muslim Filipinos "is offended no less than others by criminal actions and the suffering of families victimized," she added.

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ASSISTANCE FOR DOOMED FINAY'S FAMILY

The family of imprisoned overseas Filipino worker Cecilia Krista Alcaraz receives a brand-new tricycle as livelihood assistance from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) while the Filipina awaits her fate in Taipei where she is appealing her death sentence for murder. Meco director Isabel O. Galarosa and Manuel A. Barcelona oversee Jessa Laguna as sons she tricycle next to the children of the doomed Filipina, Krista's eldest. Shallom previously owned a tricycle to help make ends meet. Also present were two of Krista's other children, Ephraim and Aaron. Meco is currently supporting Krista's appeals process in the Taiwanese court.

3rd language for Pinoys?

THE USE OF FIL-ipino or English as the main medium of instruction in public schools is still being heavily debated, but are our Filipino school children ready to start learning a third language in school?

If elected to the presidency, Mr. X is what engineer Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. proposes to do.

The Lakas man-dated-heavy said one of the reforms he wants to implement in the education sector is the addition of a third language in the public school curriculum to train Filipino students to become more competitive in the global labor force.

"If the Philippines is to be the service or business capital of the world, then a third language has to be taught to keep up with world developments," he said. (See only 27 Autoridad

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Stop blame game on climate–GMA

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday rallied East Asian nations to work toward the forging of a new international climate agreement on deep and binding cuts in global carbon emissions to avoid world's climate change summit in Copenhagen.

"Our position in the Philippines on climate change is very strong: we are calling for a binding outcome in Copenhagen," Ms. Arroyo told the East Asian Area Congress at the Philippine International Convention Center.

She said that developed and developing countries are both hit by a worsening climate and should step in during Monte ses one month to saving humankind as a rule to address the challenge.

"We can no longer afford to play the blame game while we are united by climate change," she said.

Ms. Arroyo said the Philippines and the rest of the region must ensure that any outcome in the summit should include a "cohesive and cooperative financing mechanism" for climate change adaptation, such as disaster control and management, and integrated coastal management.

The United Nations and environment ministers are meeting in Copenhagen to study December to agree on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, whose first phase expires in 2012. The Protocol is an international and legally binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gases emissions worldwide.

Four issues

Tapping the agenda in the summit are the four issues: how much are industrialized nations willing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? How much are developing countries willing to do to limit the growth of their emissions? How is the help needed by developing countries to reduce emissions going to be financed, and how is that money going to be it, financial according to United Nations officials.

At the summit, Ms. Arroyo said the country would commit to cut only 15 percent of emissions in every succeeding year as a voluntary measure.

"That is something we can find ourselves because it is in accordance with our laws," she said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 27, 2009
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dn 7:2-14
Gospel: Lk 21:20-28

Jesus said to his disciples this comparison, "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. As soon as they begin sprout, you know that summer is already near. In the same way, as soon as you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all this has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Commentary

The visions contained in today's reading from the Book of Daniel is reminiscent of other apocalyptic passages, found in the Bible. The agitated sea, representing the world and its disorders, was linked by symbolic use to images. New Testament predictions of the judgment to come allude to the dream, especially the Book of Revelation. The four beasts signified the four empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and pre-Christian Rome, and the four horns the leaders of their leaders. But, the dominion given to each has a limit—they shall be made to serve God and his true servants, the Jews.

These servants are the symbol and support of the people of God. As Christians, with special attention that God's time spans them. The good news, however, still is the message, as Christ's glorious coming to history may come. Christians cannot stand as sentinels in the kingdom upon earth. Before the salutary time arrives, in considering the signs around us of the world and the countries, we may expect that the Son of man will not all go well for the people of the Jews or our church, until before the end comes. God will sanctify you as his instrument then the others, some while cautious as his suffering witness.

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Dynasty tragedy

EDITORIAL

THE SHOCK WE ALL FEEL OVER THE UNPRECEDented, cadred unimaginable scale of the massacre in Ampatuan, Maguindanao is also, and transmutationally, the shock of recognition. We realize: This is what happens when power becomes absolute.

How did our political family come to exercise absolute control over one province? In the same way that other political families who won attendant control in other provinces or districts or cities came to power and maintained their hold on it.

In a polity with weak political parties, a political dynasty is often the best, the most effective form of political representation. When the biggest political parties in the country remain essentially factions headcrafted by financiers or political entrepreneurs—the Nacionalist Peoples Coalition by businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., the reconstituted Nacionalist Party by Sen. Manuel Villar, the Liberal Party by the Aquino-Pimentel clan (at least until the sudden ascendancy of Sen. Benigno Aquino III), the Lakas-Kampi-CMD by President Macapagal-Arroyo—an extended political family often headed by a ruling elder, often an additional advantage: built on loyalty.

A political dynasty requires no membership initiatives, no formation programs; membership is, quite literally, a matter of DNA.

In a political domain with a tradition of centralized authority, a dynasty in power enjoys an incomparable advantage: the captivity of the incumbent. As any politician knows, power begets power; centralized power, as in the case of an underdeveloped province like Maguindanao, is the gift that keeps on giving.

In a centralized or "unitarized" political domain, a ruling political dynasty enjoys another advantage: It can effectively reach around the Iron-maidenness of term limits. (Thus, in Mayo inclusive, the Ampatuans patriarch, Andal Sr., may opt to transfer the office of governor to a son through the benefit of an unrated electoral majority.)

In other words, the monstrosity of our political system allows political dynasties to flourish.

But the question also demands a specific answer. How did one political family come to exercise absolute control over one province?

By giving the Arroyo administration, the central source of government patronage and power, exactly what it needs, and earning for itself special or legal authority to do, in its own domain, whatever it pleases.

The Ampatuans have ruled Maguindanao since 2001. They have delivered a consensual vote in each crucial election: the 2004 presidential contest, and the 2007 senatorial race. Consider that the Maguindanao "vote" proved critical to President Arroyo's presidential bid and instrumental to Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri's election to the Senate. Consider, too, that the election of Zaldy Ampatuan as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in 2005 was a happy selection for the administration: it placed a reliable ally in the influential ARMM, and allowed the administration a stronger hand in Muslim affairs. (The ARMM governor is son and heir apparent of Andal Sr.)

In return, what did the Ampatuans receive? Among many other boons, a crucial piece of paper, in the PGH lasterny. In 2006, Executive Order 546 allowed the use of barangay assets (village watchmen) as "force multipliers" in peace and order and counter-insurgency operations. The order gave legal sanction to civilian volunteer organizations or CVOs—and effectively legalized private armies.

This 80 ind directly, three years later, to the Ampatuan massacre: the worst outbreak of political violence in our history, and the worst loss of life in the history of journalism. Yesterday the Philippine National Police outlined the disarming of CVOs, a necessary process not without risk. It has also canceled all permits to carry firearms (a recognition that licensed guns may very well have been used in the massacre). But the damage has been done.

While the extreme savagery and sheer scale of the worst murder are unprecedented, the basic impulse behind it is something we are all too familiar with: When unarmed, block-timed SUVs song-song their inmates way through a city's roads, when government officials who have no other source of income except access to public funds ostentatiously purchase the most expensive luxury items, when public servants swagger into a room with dozens of bodyguards, we recognize the needs of future assassins.

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Day of mourning won't bring victims back to life

THE MASSACRE IN MAGUINDANAO COULD have been averted had Congress passed a law implementing the constitutional provision against political dynasties. The Commission on Appointments may disbud the Constitution made a mockery by adding the clause "subject to an enabling law" to the anti-dynasty provision. They should have made this provision self-implementing. For who is the senator or congressman who would file a bill whose effect is that our legislators are themselves members of family dynasties? And like that does not have a ghost of a chance of benefiting Congress which is dominated by family dynasties.

How could a two-member family dynasties have prevented the Maguindanao massacre? Because each a law. It merely outlawed, could have prevented "wetterlain." Gen. 2000, Maguindanao has been ruled by two warlord clans (the Ampatuans and the Datus) and their family siblings, children, grandchildren, in-laws and other relatives as officials of the provincial and municipal governments. As the lawyers for last Wednesday showed, the Ampatuan dynasty has 15 officials in the LGU: 2 congressmen; 2 governors; 1 vice governor, 2 provincial board members, 8 mayors, and 2 vice mayors. The Maguindanao dynasty, on the other hand, has SEVEN OFFICIALS: 3 congressmen, 1 governor, 2 mayors, and 1 vice mayor.

The two families used to be political allies, both allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, both members of the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD Party.

The Ampatuans broke ARMM was by a landslide in the 2004 elections. The opposition got more votes in many Maguindanao municipalities. There are unconfirmed reports that GMA had Virgilio Garcillano of the "Hello, Garci" tape hidden by the Ampatuans at the height of the scandal. That is why Garci could not be found when there was supposed to be a subpoena out to have him testify.

And that is why Mednavilang is reportedly warning the Ampatuans with his phone now. They reportedly know so many things about the election where GMA may be a candidate. Try to bring them to the bar of justice and they might sing their heads off. That is why the massacre government is evading subpoenas, and they have summoned a candidate every so often were behind the massacre. Probably is rampant: a "lost command" of the MILF or members of the Abu Sayyaf.

But making up a credible story would be difficult. The evidence against the Ampatuans is overwhelming. Their private armies were armed to the teeth. Because of the massacre, they have become a liability. Others each case of that. Everybody in the Maguindanao convoy was murdered. That is why more than a dozen media men were not spared. They would have been witnesses. Even innocent civilians just passing through were murdered. Dead men tell no tales. From the executive they were riding in were warned not to be on pain. They would have done the same with the first reporter in the Maguindanao convoy and the one after it if they had known that they would have been no realistic evidence of what happened to them. They would have just disappeared, swallowed by the earth... literally.

In fact, 57 corpses have been recovered. The number may still increase. A number of people are still missing.

The brutality of the massacre has shocked not only the Philippines but the whole world. The Philippines is now ranked as the most dangerous place for journalists, behind countries torn by war.

The killings were so cold-blooded and heartless that they have been likened to political killings during election seasons were shocked and outraged. Even the political allies of the Ampatuans, GMA and her subordinates, tried to distance themselves from the family Lakas-Kampi, of which the Ampatuans are members, lest its taint in expelling the family from the party at the prodding of its detached-because Senate Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro. It is curious that if an endorsement by GMA is a "kiss of death" to his candidacy, that as early by party members would be the last nail on the coffin of his presidential ambition.

Actually, GMA issued a national day of mourning for the victims and declared three days. Edsa dictator patriotically declared that "we are only human," in his excuse for failing to stop the massacre. Imelda announced that black ribbons would be put up in the Malacañang grounds.

Words, words, words. A days of mourning and black ribbons won't bring the victims back to life. They won't put the people who murdered them in prison. They won't assuage an outraged public. The President will have to do better than that. The country would be deprived of her presidency. She will have to bring the murderers to justice and put the wrongdoers of the richest to rich.

It has been five days since Monday's massacre, yet nobody has been arrested, no charges filed, not the principal suspects questioned.

"The case still is investigating," is the government's lame excuse. "There are no witnesses, no evidence."

But there is strong circumstantial evidence pointing to the Ampatuans. And as Duke Gelbert Lim of the Commission on Human Rights said, circumstantial evidence is enough to convict.

What are these circumstantial evidence? There is a backhoe of the provincial government with the name of Governor Ampatuan painted on its side that was left at the site. It was used to dig the mass graves for the victims.

The killings were premeditated. The wife of Bulsan Vice Mayor Ernesto Mangudadatu called her husband and told him that she was trapped by one of the gunmen whom she identified as Maguindanao's man. She was among those killed. Mangudadatu had been reportedly told he would be "dropped in pieces" if he tried to file his certificate of candidacy for governor. He stopped only but sent at least 57 others in those dozen.

Endangered journalists

JOURNALISTS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERable where government institutions are weak and, by default, the media is a first press to encounter irresponsibility or good behavior in those in power. We tell journalists to play functions that governments usually perform, but can't give them the protection and security that governments are constitutionally sworn their come to think of it, Magsaysay Award winner was the prosecutors are accused of the warlord clan of the Ampatuans.

In the first place, how did the journalists become part of the convoy that was ambushed? Reports only Vice Mayor Ismael "Toto" Mangudadatu had formally received police escort for his safety should he run for Maguindanao governor against the Ampatuans in the coming 2010 election. He had earlier asked for the police to provide security for him and his group when they file his certificate of candidacy (COC) on Monday this week, but no police protection was extended.

But was when his group reached the other population. The COC would be filed by Mangudadatu's wife, sister and aunt, on the assumption that an unwritten code of honor would prevent into the women from attack. They in turn would be accompanied by a whole party of journalists from national and local newspapers, supposedly to deter trailblazers with the threat of publicity and public outrage. So we now know, from eyewitness accounts against hearsay-who knew no risk and how acceptable, and are beholden only to the orders of their boss.

This is one understandable of the Ruler's dedication of to duty to keep peace and order, and their failure to protect journalists. Journalists who are in deference to underlings are no more personal risks. Remember those reporters who lingered too long during the Peñaranda mass ousted relief-soldiers and by now Sen. Antonio Trillanes? Government accepts might have told that the journalists covered by Trillanes' amateur policy against natural execution. Those reporters were roughed up, handcuffed with plastic ties and rounded up on shoots.

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

The scale and brutality of the Maguindanao massacre is blindsiding. Just we mustn't make the mistake of thinking it is a problem unique to Maguindanao or specific to Mindanao politics. Global monitors of press freedom have long been alarmed by the killings and harassment of Filipino journalists—at one time or had we were ranked right next to Afghanistan in terms of casualties from the media—though nobody could have imagined the bloodletting they're capable of in Ampatuan town in Maguindanao.

The records of the Philippine Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility show that, as of April 2007, a total of 52 professional media men had been killed in the line of duty since the fall of Marcos in February 1986. Significantly, of the 52 victims, 40 were radio broadcasters and six worked outside Manila. The killings peaked during the presidency of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Of these killings, only four prosecutions have resulted in convictions and, in the most celebrated of them, the murder of Marilyn Agustin of The Mindanao Examiner in Mindanao, the Supreme Court had to transfer the venue of the trial to Davao to embolden the witnesses to testify.

What is significant is that many of these victims belonged to community newspapers and provincial radio stations. A look at the victims of the Maguindanao massacre parallels countless other patterns. The Center for International Law, a Manila-based NGO against impunity, lists the data as correspondents' affiliations. The journalists came from General Santos City media outfits—Socsargen Today, Socsargen News, Inland News, News Focus, Radio 4ESS, DXFC Manila bulletin, another Koronadal City Radio News, Bombo Radyo, Gold Star Daily, Mindanao News, Periodico ng Ulo. Four came from Tacurong City: Gold Star Daily, Central Mindanao Inquirer, Midland Review, Mindanao Examiner. Finally, there were three correspondents from Davao City, three news organizations unreported.

In the case of Bombo Int., a news weekly published in the Filipinos language, the murdered journalist was Henry Araos, one of the founders of the newspaper, the husband and wife team of husband and Noemi's beloved.

The provincial press has become the heart of the killings because it is where local landlords, government institutions are most feudal, where the rule of law is most tenuous. Local elites, the old families, or the new warlord clan—they who think they can literally get away with murder.

Adding salt, actual testimonies to witness the murderous rages were in Bombo. The Center for International Law further reports that forensic work on the victims' remains has been hampered by lack of equipment and facilities, and the sophisticated handling of evidence. Keeping this mandate lost in the dark of maintenance and communications. Officials of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, in addition, were shocked to see the police slip up a woman's bloodied and broken body using the close of a backhoe, those giant tractor-like-ends for excavating rocks. The exact-pots of these journalists were later found in the graveyard. Accordingly, the Center has urged Dr. Benito Molino, Forensic expert of the Medical Action Group and the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, who is now in Maguindanao, to help in the exhumation of the bodies. The author of Brica, a forensic anthropologist who has done work on the genocide victims in Yugoslavia and the Scottish casualties in Laos.

The Ampatuan administration has adopted as its motto "Blessing na Republika." Boring Republic. Just as the motto "Iwas Pulitika" is truly to ignore it. Not only when it has resulted in massacre.

Comment to pascual@up.edu.ph

Music that soothes the beast

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

AND THE INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE over the Maguindanao Massacre, the Satyricon Manila Metropolitan Cathedral is drowning public attention to the more tranquilizing pursuit of building a pipe organ festival on Dec. 1 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the cathedral from the ruins of World War II.

The concert will be the first of its kind in the capital in the absence of Manila orchestra and former the biggest church pipe organ in Southeast Asia. Installation of the organ, originally with 3,000 pipes, was done with the participation of a full orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of the well-known Austrian conductor, Dr. Erasmo Borrell.

The concert marks a long-awaited milestone based on the momentous projects of the post-war cathedral, whose rehabilitation was completed in December 1958. The cathedral required extensive repairs. Its bell's towers, for example, has opened cracks and a new heating, cooling and lighting system when bothered by strong winds. The cathedral's authorities and friends of the Cathedral seek to establish the concert as a major musical event of the year, inspired by the tradition of the New Year's Concert in Vienna, Austria's Musikverein. Orchestra, featuring classical music, mainly Viennese waltzes of the Johann Strauss family, father and son, at the Musikverein, the concert hall of the Vienna Philharmonic. This New Year's concert is watched by more than 1.2 billion people in 44 countries all over the world.

According to Jim Sibley, an organist residing in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Manila Cathedral's organ is in good or that of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The organ originally had 72 ranks. But unlike that's brother, which is the only organ capable of singing an organ concert assisted by the combined choirs and with full orchestra accompaniment.

The stage of the Cultural Center of the Philippines is not big enough to host a Cathedral organ concert of such scale, and this is aside from the fact that the cathedral's basilica has the acoustics suitable for giving the proper sounds and volumes of the celestial music produced by the organ, which is enhanced by a large choir as well as full orchestral accompaniment.

Professor Borrell is an organist in the Philippines, having performed with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and local orchestras in various cities in the country. He is also a choir director.

The cathedral's Christmas concert will feature Filipino singers who have won international accolades, including Dominique Morales, tenor, Jose Emmanuel Baring, baritone, and Camille Lopez Molina, soprano.

Being staged in the midst of turmoil over the Maguindanao massacre, the Manila Cathedral concert is reminiscent of the Christmas carol singing boom during a crucial time in the modern days of the revolution against Ferdinand Marcos.

During the time, famous and gifted troupe built an incredible in they sang "Oh Holy Night." The troupe climbed out their trenches, and placed food and on the battlefields of Bataan. This is the feast the Cathedral hopes to bring to the longings an interlude of peace through the Christmas carols concert.

Human shields

The Maguindanao massacre has triggered an unprecedented national outrage over what Undersecretary General Jose Ma. Ancheta rem, dictated as "brutal violence" where more than 57 victims were killed in a political rivalries in the run up to the May 2010 elections. Most of the victims of the killings were political non-combatants and innocent civilians, including women, journalists and lawyers.

The report, commissioned by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, formerly Governor-Mindanao, condemned the slaughter as "barbaric." The Ampatuan-based Press Freedom Campaign (PFC) was so alarmed by the fact that the massacre left at least 28 journalists dead that it pushed for an international boycott to protect journalists.

The massacre brings the number of journalists killed in the Philippines this year to 40. The 28 deaths were "the largest single massacre of journalists ever," according to The Statehood Reporters Without Borders.

The victims were part of the convoy that accompanied the wife of Buluan town in Maguindanao province, who went to file her certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections before its shutoff signals, the governor of Maguindanao province is a member of the ruling political organization, headed by Datu Andal Jr.

The members of the massacre launched unprintable conventions in the political rivalry among the warlords in a region where elections have been marked by violence over the years. It was so troubling that a record Amina Rasul, director of the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy, to say, "Even to our enemies, we don't do this, not to women, not the institutions." Such was the depth of depravity and perfidy displayed today in the region, assassinations would of women and non-combatants.

The delegation led by Maguindanao's wife included journalists and human rights lawyers to help identify the victims. The group urged the country to center the filing of the certificate of candidacy not as provinces of Maguindanao. Their provision was expected to shield the mayor's daughters, on the assumption that political jousting would not attack the wives and daughters of political rivalry in the region, assassinations would of women and non-combatants.

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The shock on the journalists covering the convoy of a local politician is a warning that their immunity from attacks while covering political events is no longer respected.

Interior Secretary Ronnie Puno went to great lengths to justify the PNP's actions manifested after the massacre, pointing out that investigation went at the scene within an hour and that it was here from their presence that prevented the goons from completely burning the evidence. But critics, for reasons unclear, say that.

Maguindanao says he has appealed to the provincial police director and then to the military regional chief to provide his party with security after receiving reports that the Ampatuan's unauthorized police or military escort have prevented his killings? Could the motives, barriers, human rights activists, media people and even politicians convenience have been saved if agents of the law had been to dominance of Maguindanao's appointees?

THE INTERFACE merely proves that even cynical realists, cultural mores and spiritual touchstones can sometimes be used to lure the savage beast with the thin tapped or power-lies with the Ampatuans.

But it's still puzzling what the perpetrators hoped to accomplish by killing media people. Did they expect a massacre of journalists to be the fervent avenue of conflict. After all, they would only be needlessly exerting adverse public opinion.

But perhaps the suspension and other allies of the Ede administration have been assured only too well that the best strategy to employ in preventing over a negative public opinion explosion is to lessen it not let it nothing wrong has happened. Set the appropriate scene of the massacre and let the news-mad life span of the news cycle to move on to the next atrocity-for new scandal.

The latest news is that Datu Unsay Mayor Sajid Ampatuan Jr., the governor's son who is also a lawyer, has been charged with the principal suspected murderer. Just remembered for murderers. Does this mean that justice will be served? I really doubt it. The massacre has all the signs of a carefully planned operation, and perhaps this appropriate of authority was part of the overall scenario.

Rido

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MAGUINDANAO CARNAGE, the dreaded "rido" is now being mentioned, which means bloody feuding among clans and communities in Mindanao. The objective of the rido is to obtain justice after a member of a clan has been avenged—"revenged" here ranging from killing involved to being murdered. The nature of the game is vengeance, which can cause endless cycles of retribution, going for several generations.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I worry too about how the Maguindanao massacre is beginning to spark anti-Muslim sentiments and reminds me, putting that Muslim list, "by nature" violent. The image of the hundred murderous gunmen, in powerful with modern arms—"check"—which is used to stereotype Muslims, coming to mind.

We forget that Christians are most "much" in the name of God. The murderous includes involved massacre of Muslims, in the 20th century, numerous troops were also involved in mass murders of Muslims in Jolo and Basilan and Muslims in the name of justifying the islands. We don't think of Gen. Jacob Smith as one running amok when he ordered troops to turn the town of Balangiga in Samar island into a howling wilderness, as retaliation for an ambush on American soldiers.

As for family feuding, we find this in culture throughout the world. We forget the Mafia members were also a form of rido, first erupting as warring feuding families in Sicily then and then spreading to the United States as Mafia members migrated.

Jurassic

Whether in Maguindanao or Sicily, what we see is not just individuals but culture itself going berserk. Families and clans evolved mainly for mutual welfare and protection. Whether in hunting, agriculture or fishing communities. There was strength in the number of people who could cooperate for economic activities, as well as for defense—and offense.

Deeply between families are not surprising, they still occur even in the most modern of societies but they don't break out into such brutal violence as we saw this week. In the case of Maguindanao, we are vide gripped over feudal relations, where political power is concentrated in a few landlord families. So, most of they are geographically part of a larger economy that's mostly agricultural, even now tripped off turnover and unemployment—and the rido tradition.

In a modern society, the landlord is a symbol, with his society. The landlord was had reliable loyalty from his family as well as from his subsistence. The attention in Maguindanao would not have happened if the Ampatuan patrons totally believing that what they were doing was "right" right here because they were being loyal to their clients.

There was nothing "usual" here. It was civilization, all-the-above, the power dog before the monsters. The monster's itself was the politicians, and the rounds of the most brutal atrocities and murders on the victims.

What we saw was not just a monstrous God-a-pot spectacle with several purposes.

One was to degrade—a way of telling "the other side"—"We do not consider you human." This is found all the history southern cultures, as well as in the modern their attitudes humanize the other side, no longer seeing them as fellow human beings.

The second purpose was to defile. Bodies were desecrated, whether through beheading or, according to some news reports, armed assault. This was again intended for "the other side," of creating a memory of ugly and outraged.

Finally, the massacre was intended to terrify not just the other side, but all who live in Maguindanao, if not adjoining provinces, or even the nation. It was a barbarism's brazen display of power.

The rido is rarely ended because of a week, if not others, there. The late eminent Cebuano historian and professor at the UP School of Economics, focused on the idea of the Philippines as a weak or failed state, showing how so many of our problems are tied to a State unwilling and unable to govern. Muslim Mindanao was some of the bloodiest cases in decades, the expectancy of around 50 years for example, compared to the national figure of 70.

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The continuing lack of educational and health services from national government besides the warlords in many ways keeping the population literally in the Dark Ages and keeping them dependent on the occasional crumbs thrown to them by the local warlord.

Underpolitics

I would suggest though that the problem in Maguindanao exists not just because of the absence of the State in terms of social services, but also because you have scenarios like our President Macapagal-Arroyo having to rely on traditional feudal structures to shore up her own weak hold on the country. To do so, she has to give them symbolic free rein. The feudal warlords, Christian or Muslim, the erosion and more because the State is.

There is a vicious cycle here. If the president fails to act, and this means not just bringing in the perpetrators of the security but also controlling the other political warlords who, trying to establish rivals, she will see more ampatuans, or other of warlords.

Two years ago the Asia Foundation published a book, "Rido: Clan Feuding and Conflict Management in Mindanao," by Wilfredo Magno Torres III. The book is based on research conducted in Mindanao, including a review of 1,206 rido incidents between the 1980s and 2005, where resulted in more than 6,000 deaths and many more thousands displaced from their homes and communities. The four provinces with the most reported rido cases were Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Lanao del Norte and Sulu.

Torres notes that underlying many of the rido incidents are land disputes and political rivalries. He also notes a "steady rise" in rido incidents in more recent times. I was able to talk with the author just as I was finishing up this column and he says local NGOs, both in Muslim and Christian areas, have continued to work on this issue. Ironically, they were having a meeting in Cotta on the very day the Maguindanao massacre is happened.

I will be interested to learn from what's going on in social conflict resolution work these local groups, but I'm also interested to see how the violence in every subdivided in Muslim. "Ultimately, we need to convince how national politics fits into the picture, whether in peacebuilding or, I would hope, after lasting the problem.

Visit rakenjo.com to download the book and to get more updated information on the social forces driving armed violence in the Philippines. Mail to: Michael L. Tan, 3 Lapu-Lapu Ave., Magallanes Village. Mail it to buy a hard copy of the book.

E-mail: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

The Jesuits' chastity belt

MISPAKING IS COMPOUNDED INSTANT FROM where we are. We hear about evidence and kidnapping that's but false it is a fact of life. Sometimes, the details slowly coming out regarding the massacre of women, journalists and innocent passersby who simply happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Some of them paid this cruel and cruel blood feud. We are not yet in an election season but Mindanao already knows this. We cannot hope this will be the last. Will the victims of other warlords call the "Maguindanao Massacre" years get justice? Will the murderers be punished? Will "never again" be more than a slogan?

Seventy-five years ago in Zamboanga City, the colorful Bruno Cano Clarence was shot and killed in public, in broad daylight. That crime remains unsolved to this day.

My family visited Zamboanga regularly when I was a child. We stayed at Jose Rizal Street, we had no relatives there. But my mother was drawn to the imported goods in the barter trade market—like saris in sugar. My father was then busy developing what was to become the first 5-star hotel in the city (now called Paramount Hotel, called the Zamboanga Plaza, across Lantaka Restaurant). I remember hearing those trips that I met the mayor Mayor Climaco often around town in his motorcade. Everyone greeted him with a genuine smile in the wave of a hand. Children dashed his name as he passed by and he enjoyed smiling/screaming those with candy bars his pockets. He was someone who was loved by the people, as he was also respected.

Climaco didn't fit my textbook idea of what a mayor looked like because the few times I saw him he was in shorts and slippers. In a mental line-baby, I like Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's preference in white barongs and unbuttoned, only he looked in stiff in his Bruno Cano-type barong. Tagalog he reminds the rest out of place in a office.

In contrast, Climaco was colorful and to my child's eyes literally larger than life. When I asked my father why Climaco didn't control the long grass ban, I was told that he stopped barongs ban can on where mental law was declared in 1972, and that he would probably be arrested if he ever tried to arrested. He did not live to see the down break.

On the morning of Nov. 14, 1984, Climaco delivered some last and rebel efforts in a section of downtown Zamboanga that had his name known. It is said that in the passed some coffee being prepared for the visitors, he remarked jokingly, "Hey! Bruno one for me." That joke was to be his last, and his end grim and prophetic because as he boarded his motorcade to continue his rounds around the city, a man ever behind him and shot him in the back of the head, with the bullet coming out his right cheek. The assassin was never apprehended, only hitchhiked. Climaco was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

Shortly before his assassination Climaco quoted the news that the military was going to do him in. He probably thought that by making true justice public. It would make the assassins think twice before they pulled the trigger. Public and media pressure pointed to a Muslim group lead by the MNLF brothers out to avenge the death of their brothers who are killed in a development consultation law.

It has been 25 years and Climaco's assassination remains unsolved. Climaco remains alive in my childhood memories—and in the recollections of an interview I had with the late Fr. Shilo de Luis, another colorful character. Father Luis, an ex-Jesuit, was expelled from the Society of Jesus in 1958 when he refused to follow his vows of obedience and continue only taught the Filipinization of the religious orders in the Philippines then headed by foreigners. Father Luis was not expelled because he threatened to expose the so-called "Jesuit chastity belt," about which his priestly vows of celibacy were violated.

"That's almost for priests either way because the person who told the story is dead—the story was told to me by the police or investigators was in Zamboanga. The Jesuit chastity belt? What could it be? He just kept said to the head of the priests as well as to the Jesuit Provincial Superior. But because every time I spoke about priests, especially Jesuits, he would stop me and say, 'No write a secret priests. No say.' So he stops. This is the priests are men in Zamboanga and he must have seen a knife through a hole while relieving the priest of some of his possessions told him how he saw the priest on the bed while the priest was taking a bath. There could be something to it! But go and find evidence! The female from the sexual excesses of the times. How do you explain that? ... I have seven cases women a secret manner or a bit of a secret. Some of them are dead, some of them are still living, but I don't know. Just for the sake of chastity. Now I don't know. Just for the sake of, but to satisfy my curiosity and answer the unanswered question of the Jesuit being so chaste, then you must give weight to the story of the chastity belt."

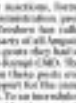
Climaco remains alive in history, he is a common-sensical to mother Fr. Luis he blessed Mindanao as he did me. He made a difference in my memory, and he remains alive in my notes, in a unverifiable corpus of information in the Jesuit chastity belt.

Tomorrow: Sec. 28. I will deliver a lecture on "Chastity versus Celibacy" at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sec. 28 at Golden Exploring Philippine Prehistory" at the Ayala Museum at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Comments: pinoykasi.com/wp/wp-admin/edit.php

Arrogance and impunity

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

AMONG THE most instant reactions, former Defense Secretary and administration presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro has called for the expulsion from the party of all Ampatuan men, including the patriarch Andal Sr., who ran, raised as members of Lakas-Kampi-CMD. Once had formed up their hold on these pests even more by their consistent support for the candidacy of the administration. To see him defend the party and distance from the Ampatuans, and thus up managed to secure an unbelievable 1/3-1 it seems in Maguindanao, the family members merely smiled and assured that voters in the province will vote according to what the family orders.

For Teodoro and the party leaders to come to act to self-righteous umbrage at the impunity and arrogance of the Ampatuans—that's just silly and hypocritical. It's not as if they didn't know what the clans and their self-styled chiefs in the region were up to all these years, say decades. True, the bloodbath in Ampatuan town is unprecedented. But given how they were coddled and encouraged, it now appears to have only been a matter of time before their sense of power turned into hubris.

And I remember that Teodoro was secretary of national defense before he turned candidate, and it is assumed that he knew of the many private armies the Ampatuan mayor with his operations, specifically the build-up of a private army of soldiers and police.

That he did nothing to curb the power of warring political alliances is not the least of his sins by omission, if not commission (by, of such hands-on elements).

Imagine Secretary Ronnie Puno went to great lengths to justify the PNP's actions manifested after the massacre, pointing out that investigators were at the scene within an hour and that it was here from their presence that prevented the goons from completely burning the evidence. But critics, for reasons unclear, say that.

Maguindanao says he has appealed to the provincial police director and then to the military regional chief to provide his party with security after receiving reports that the Ampatuan's unauthorized police or military escort have prevented his killings? Could the motives, barriers, human rights activists, media people and even politicians convenience have been saved if agents of the law had been to dominance of Maguindanao's appointees?

THE INTERFACE merely proves that even cynical realists, cultural mores and spiritual touchstones can sometimes be used to lure the savage beast with the thin tapped or power-lies with the Ampatuans.

But it's still puzzling what the perpetrators hoped to accomplish by killing media people. Did they expect a massacre of journalists to be the fervent avenue of conflict. After all, they would only be needlessly exerting adverse public opinion.

But perhaps the suspension and other allies of the Ede administration have been assured only too well that the best strategy to employ in preventing over a negative public opinion explosion is to lessen it not let it nothing wrong has happened. Set the appropriate scene of the massacre and let the news-mad life span of the news cycle to move on to the next atrocity-for new scandal.

The latest news is that Datu Unsay Mayor Sajid Ampatuan Jr., the governor's son who is also a lawyer, has been charged with the principal suspected murderer. Just remembered for murderers. Does this mean that justice will be served? I really doubt it. The massacre has all the signs of a carefully planned operation, and perhaps this appropriate of authority was part of the overall scenario.

Today's noteworthy heroes

1. IT'S NOT JUST THE HEROES' administration's fault that we have a "scary wave of relocation" in the country. Yes, the situation smacks but here in a very own town before this administration. The relocation budget isn't even approved by the country's president. Shouldn't we be blaming Congress instead? Blaming every thing on President Macapagal-Arroyo seems more like we are under a dictatorship rather than a democratic country. There's a system and there are existing branches of the government that can address or not failure. And take note, the Optimist Sports (OPS) founded by Hiyas Pefiablanca has been in existence for the past 12 years. The present administration is just nine months old.

Say dun! I agree with the Poet-laureate. I agree that Pefiablanca should be given the highest honor. The Filipino people need heroes like him to look up to.

2. The government plans to give him a "hero's welcome." Don't government officials see that Pefiablanca would rather have funds for his cause than some money for a P15,000 per plate party? Yes, the government is giving him a cash gift of P5,000,000. But how much is it spending for this hero's welcome? Why doesn't it give the million to DFC and spread only P250,000 for the welcome party? P250,000 is good enough for a welcome party, isn't it?

3. Instead of giving Pefiablanca just a cash gift, why don't government officials also try to study why his fantastic work and our current situation spawn dozens? DFC didn't need any diamonds, nor did a clue in finding a more stable solution to the lack of diamonds?

Pefiablanca's methods also show clear our main problem isn't just the lack of diamonds. It's in the lack of importance that the Filipino people give to education. Budgets for education are never enough. Barrios would prefer clear their lands go to work immediately rather than study. There are classes in fields that are held under the trees. A former Indian astrologer said that there is four seasons there is food and a desk in rural areas in India. Yet, there little of wages go to school. They study all the way to college. But jobs and find ways to get their master's degrees. Even if they have a family already, they borrow money from relatives and leave their jobs to get their master's degrees even from schools outside India. There's how much importance they give to education, with higher education, they believe they have a better chance of receiving an idyllic.

Pefiablacia and Manny "Pacquiao" Pangilan show us the truth in the saying "If there's a will, there's a way." Pacquiao is an example of a person who rose from nothing to nothing to excel in his chosen field. He's an example of determination and discipline combined. Pefiabloria and Pacquiao are enormously heroes of today's generation.

—CHARLENE IAS,
charlene.ias@rocketmail.com

Massacre bound to happen because of disregard for law

THE MORIGUMO BRIGADE THE Sisters of the Manila Priory are shocked, outraged and grieved by the massacre in Maguindanao. We grieve with the relatives of all those who were killed and will remain, for the victims in our prayers.

It is really very disturbing to us that many, especially top men in government, who are supposed to be intensely so culpable and so brutally in broad daylight with assigned impunity. It is a sad proof of the lawlessness and the utter failure in governance into which our country has fallen. That crime was possible only because of the prevailing disregard for law of those who are governing and of their tolerance of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations.

We call upon President Macapagal-Arroyo and the local authorities in Maguindanao to make a swift and thorough investigation and to punish the perpetrators.

We unite ourselves with all those who condemn and express their outrage at this heinous crime and who call for the dismissal of private armies and dynasties. We also unite ourselves in prayer for a fundamental transformation of our country.

—Sr. MARY JOHN MANANZAN, OSB, prioress,
Missionary Benedictine Sisters,
Manila Priory,
2344 Leon Guinto St., Manila

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LETTERS

Battle between Good and Evil

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO Michael L. Quirico (DY) column (Inquirer, 11/22/09) titled "Good Profits and Evil Civilians."

Quirico mentioned something that needs to be said about the continuing state of affairs in politics today—confidence winging from one party to another, opposition parties vying for the state subsidiaries, while dozens and dozens have over the administration's (also corrupt) GMC, etc. So loosely for Quirico's misuse of "combining the righteousness of a cause with the pride of self-righteousness." Quite a mouthful, really. But his use of Tolkien's magic, "The Lord of the Rings," makes it easy to understand for laymen. "Isolating an injustice/the standards for individuals, while ignoring the need for a common cause to confront a greater danger. This is the danger of public information by the vast conservatorium." Makes sense to me.

And there we have an enduring issue: Virtue is value-realized. Good is conquer Evil—for at the heart of hope is the humility to give all a chance to help fight Evil without causing an injustice. A humility based on belief in redemption, etc.

Quirico's metaphor on the matter, especially redemption, is a Christian value that I wish could become a uniting force for the quarreling parties. To practice good for the country above ambition and personal gain, it is necessary to be open and righteousness. As Quirico quoted Camus, "Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can one give it to them?"

Yolanda Quirico (for her daughter),
—BETTY PANGEL,
dbetsypangel@yahoo.com

Consequence of failed leadership

POLITICAL MASS MURDERS, such as the one that we recently had in Maguindanao, are neither new nor unnerving. Philippine history is replete with bloodshed perpetrated by the ruling elites against their own clans or those below them.

The first 23 Magsilisbuan massacres has since again reminded us that governance in certain areas of the Philippines is nothing but an unsavory amalgamation of corruption, ability and greed, which destroy the powers that be to forge ahead prudently and morality and to have the thought of their being above the rest of mankind and beyond the reach of the law.

Each mind-set is a consequence of failed, if not perverted, leadership. It is worthy to note that under President Macapagal-Arroyo's rule, every incident of lawlessness or politics and business was cloaked with impunity. The Garci incident, the Jueteng scandal, the ZTE deal, the Subic-Clark building, the Jolibee-Jollibee issue, the fertilizer scam, all of them and others—to the eyes of many people—carried GMA's signature.

This being so, politicians of all colors, whether allied with GMA or not, have come to believe that killing is but business, confident that there can get away with whatever messages and overcome adverse public opinion, just as the mayor in Maguindanao does so well.

—JOHN LAZARAGA,
39-A J.B.J Triangle,
Filipinas Ave, Pamplona III,
Las Piñas City

Bias of status quo against Escudero

ONE REASON WHY FILIPINOS unfairly remain rich is that the defenders of the damaged business are conscious to cling to their privileges. These are typified by the likes of business columnist Boo Chanco, Ottoya Cesarao who, in her Nov. 15 column, unfairly bashed Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero on four counts.

Cesarao should re-examine her standards because it is certainly a flawed man who issues unfounded pain names—from Estrada and the late Fernando Poe Jr.—in their defense, who, in the face of unrefuted testimonies, dares to show reactionist for the times by espousing the confessions of Jinggoy Estrada, and who, in defiance of "prejudicial political wisdom," leaves his party which, ironically, he never left when it was convenient for him to leave during re-

I invite Cesarao to look into the midst of those who want to oppose this administration and see for herself those who eventually realized the "conduct" of supposing it. I also invite her to look into the faces of those who continue to oppose the Estrada administration and see for herself those who used him when it was convenient to do so. Escudero never willed using any pressure, nor yielded to exchange for any reward from this administration.

I challenge Cesarao to ask all those who want to be president of this country if what Escudero has done so far they can also do. Escudero, at 40, has shown done he can make hard decisions at times when are inconvenient to do so. Escudero never willed using any pressure, nor yielded to exchange for any reward from this administration.

—FERDINAND E. LACUNA,
San Juan, East Riverin,
Batangas City

Anti-torture law is not enough to curb abuses

EXACTLY THE ANTI-TORTURE ACT OF 2009 was signed into law. The 14th Congress needs to be congratulated for passing a law that is long overdue and took almost 13 years to enact. However human rights victims, including myself, cannot yet celebrate. The importance and relevance of this law to our lives remain to be seen. It is just a piece of paper unless enforced and armed to exist. It will not achieve its intended purpose of protecting individuals and human rights unless real justice is delivered to victims of torture under the law and prosecute abusers and their law enforcement and military personnel, and makes the guilty are punished for their heinous crimes.

The difficulty of the law enforcement agencies and the military cannot be expected to lead in the new law's enforcement considering the fact that some of their peers, if not they themselves, are directly involved in the human rights violations. Therefore, it is important for the legal profession and human rights organizations to lead the way, collect the cases of human rights abuses and see the new law to court, otherwise the law will be useless and the benefits that the law could let society will not be realized. Filipinos can only blame themselves if this happens. The ball is now in the hands of civil society.

Many of the human rights abuses, torture crimes, are committed undercover and then kept from the public as "Classified Information" or "Top Secret." The code of silence among law enforcement and military personnel has to be broken. The international community should be more transparent with its citizens. Congress must pass the Freedom of Information Act to provide additional legal instruments for the successful prosecution of human rights violators, and for citizens to get the protection of the law.

The human rights struggle in the Philippines has reached a landmark point yes. The difficult struggle must continue. Congress needs to be prompted to pass the Freedom of Information Act, for sure.

—BERNARDO B. MERANTE IV, MD,
23 Sn. Salvador St.,
Alliance 1, Quezon City

Threats after dismissal of fabricated charges

I WAS ARRESTED WITHOUT WARRANT BY A group of policemen allegedly for the crime of rape. The court promptly dismissed the case after a finding that the complainant could not be located at the address given in her sworn statement. I am now receiving threats to my life and the security of my family.

For this reason, I am therefore, making it public that after the dismissal of the case in court, I filed criminal and administrative cases against nine 20 policemen, three officers and four non-officers who violated our private personal compound and stormed my house without permission, and drew duty armored car after a woman pointed to me as her rapist. It appears, the woman is not known to the address given to her.

It was a crime fabricated by a bogus complainant, for blackmail and extortion.

—EDGERTON R. PANTA,
111-A Alma, Barona Centro

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City mayors asked to declare Ampatuans 'persona non grata'

BAGUIO CITY—MAYOR REINALDO BAUTISTA Jr. asked his colleagues in the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) to declare officials of Maguindanao as "persona non grata" in their cities following the murder of 57 people in that province on Monday.

"They may claim no bond in the bloodbath, [but] still, they were supposed to be keepers of peace and order in their land," Bautista said in a statement he read before reporters on Thursday. The statement was later sent to the LCP.

"I urge my fellow mayors, regardless of their political affiliation, to join me in declaring the present officialdom of Maguindanao ... as persona non grata," he said.

At least 57 people, most of them women and journalists, were killed while they were on their way to the Commission on Elections office to file a certificate of candidacy on behalf of Datu Unsay Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu.

Mangudadatu is challenging Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. in the 2010 elections.

Bautista released the statement without a city council endorsement, she bypass learned.

Vice Mayor Faustino Dalawampu, the presiding officer of the city council, said the council expresses a justifiable reason before it could declare anybody unwelcome, "and that is not an easy thing to do given that Baguio is for everyone and we try not to make people unwelcome in this massive city."

"Although everyone is angry [at the people behind the massacre], we have speculations that certain unfounded or illmannered gun beyond constitutionally established freedoms of the press and of speech ... No words can describe the barbarity ... [and so] condemn the powers behind the gruesome crime[s] to be able to stopping a most murderous era," Bautista said.

He said Baguio is a "land of many cultures" where peace is a dogma."

"At such, allow me to be the first in declaring that the Ampatuans and those who support them in any capacity are not welcome in the city of Baguio," Bautista said.

At a news conference, Bautista said his initiative "is not political."

But when asked, he said he was also concerned over how he would address a new wave of migrants that would be driven from Maguindanao by the provincial election violence there.

Vincent Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

INCIDENT placards around the city council hall where they are lit to condemn the mass murder of unarmed people in Ampatuan town in Maguindanao. *[illegible]*

Ecija Comelec execs get new assignments

CABANATUAN CITY—MOST election officers in Nueva Ecija have been reshuffled for the Feb-up in the 2010 national elections.

The reassignment, which started on Nov. 16, involved **election officers in three cities** and 20 towns, and acting provincial election supervisor Fernando Cui-ong.

"Except for two election officers, the **rest were revised**. And richer because they had been in their assignment for four years or five were brought nearer the place where they live," Cui-ong said.

He said the election officer of Bongabon town asked to be reassigned because of a gunmaking-shooting incident in his yard on Nov. 19.

Cui-ong said Bongabon election officer Shelley Espejo, 42, was watching TV with his wife and children in his house in Barangay Ranjo when a grenade exploded.

Espejo, however, was hurt in the explosion.

"He cannot say yet if the attack was meant to hamot-ilapan or if it has something to do with the coming elections. Nevertheless, we granted his request to be assigned to another town," Cui-ong said.

The town, whose Cui-ong did not identify, has got into the Commission on Elections official's crosshairs as the campaign for the election assistant for alleged irregularity in the registration of voters.

Nueva Ecija is usually clashfied by the police as an area of concern every election period.

Abrahim Rivera, Inquirer Central Luzon

Olongapo says goodbye to its first woman mayor

OLONGAPO CITY—ADELLA Gordon, the first woman mayor of this Zambales city, was buried on Wednesday beside her husband at the Gordon Memorial Park here.

Gordon, 89, died of complications from a cardiac arrest she suffered on Nov. 17, while in their family home in Metro Manila.

Gordon, the matriarch of the Gordon political clan, left her children Sen. Richard Gordon, Mayor James Gordon Jr., Veronica Gordon Lorenzana, Barbara Gordon Arellano, Cecilia Mullen and Imelda Bona.

Gordon's wake was held at the Olongapo City Convention Center Sani. Mass was held there on Wednesday noon before she was buried beside the grave of her husband, former Olongapo Mayor James Gordon Sr.

The family's supporters expressed condolences online through Sen. Gordon's Facebook account. Red ribbons were tied to gates, lampposts and vehicles as the city mourned as Gordon was buried on Wednesday.

Councilor John Carlos delos Reyes, Gordon's grandson and the presidential candidate of the Ang Kapatirang party, said it was Dimlan who inspired him to enter politics.

He said Gordon will leave a legacy for the people of Olongapo in the form of institutions for children and the poor that she established and supported. *Aaliyah Domingo, Inquirer Central Luzon*

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, PLEASE WAIT FOR THE METER DEPOSIT REFUND (MDR) SCHEDULE IN YOUR ELECTRIC BILL BEFORE GOING TO ANY MERALCO BUSINESS CENTER. FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL 1622-6666 OR 632-6666 OR EMAIL meterdeposit@meralco.com.ph OR LOG ON TO www.meralco.com.ph.

FLOODS have taken over the national highway that links the rest of Misamis Oriental to Cagayan de Oro after heavy rains brought by Tropical Depression "Urduja" wrought havoc in parts of Visayas and Mindanao. DETAILS A

'Urduja' leaves 4 dead

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TROPical Depression "Urduja" left four persons dead—two in southern Cebu—and a trail of destruction in Misamis Oriental on its way to southern Leyte, the provincial disaster coordinating council said.

Urduja triggered floods and landslides that damaged infrastructure in 13 of the province's 24 towns and in Cagayan de Oro City, officials said.

Teddy Saburnan, provincial disaster council chief, said the flooded areas were Opol, Alubijid, Tagoloan, Villanueva, Jasaan, Initigayong, Balingasan, Magsaysay, Lagonglong, Salay, Binuangan, El Salvador and Manticao towns.

At least 4,000 people lived in these areas.

Families that lived along the Cagayan de Oro River were forced to move out as floods ate up their homes.

Carlito, 42, and her children—Maylouj, 8, and Tanya, 4—sought shelter under the Mabuhay Bridge on Abelleneda Street when their four-by-seven meter shanty built on stilts above the river's waterline, was inundated by floods.

"It was like what happened in January," said Lydia.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday said Urduja moved slowly, which explains the prolonged rains in northeastern Mindanao, including this city.

"This tropical depression may contribute more rains throughout the region just like what happened in the city's flash floods early this year," said Nelly Entuladoro, Pagasa weather specialist here.

In Iligan, Ginggy Lagunero, at least 108 families left their homes while in Barangay Buga, a waterspout washed out at least nine houses.

Marichu Lago, information officer of the regional Department of Public Works and Highways, said in a text message that a landslide blocked Gorda Bridge in Salvador town.

In southern Cebu, at least two persons were killed and 85 families had to be moved out of their homes because of flooding brought by rains that came in torrents.

Reynaldo Zoralbodo, 40, a banker in Barangay Baya, Dumanjog town, 72 km southwest of Cebu City, was electrocuted when he touched a fallen live wire as he tried to rescue his children from floods that swallowed their house.

Neighbors rescued Zoralbo-do's children—Reylyn, 12, and Reinbrandt, 10—and recovered his body.

In Barangay Tabed Bitoon, also in Dumanjog, Marlene Dellores, 14, was gathering firewood when he was swept by floodwaters on Wednesday.

Some homes in Barangay Bitoo in Dumanjog were also submerged in floodwaters.

In Naga, 11.7 km south of Cebu City, 45 families were evacuated from their flooded homes on Wednesday, said town Mayor Valdemar Chiong.

Chiong said 13 mountain barangays were also hit by landslides. Nonito R. Corrales, Inquirer Mindanao and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

Illegal loggers using kids, says priest

LUZON CITY: OPERATORS OF illegal logging in Sierra Madre are now using children as lookers, a Quezon Catholic priest told Presidente Macapagal. Arroyo in an open letter Monday.

Fr. Pete Montallana, of the Prelature of Infanta and head of the Save Sierra Madre Network, said in his letter to Ms Arroyo dated Nov. 23 that he personally found boys being used to haul sacs illegally cut lumber from the mountains.

"To my big surprise, children carried lumber," Montallana said in his letter.

He said he saw a 13-year-old boy in an uphill climb carrying a piece of lumber on his back.

The priest said children are paid P6 per board foot.

"The others were paid P3 per board foot. A mother even said they (her children) were not even paid at all because the financier just told her, 'Montallana said.

He said children earn an average of P180 a day for the backbreaking task three times a day which entails hiking several kilometers because the logging site up to the mountain's top.

The priest said he also saw cut lumber and piles of charcoal inside the forest, and heard the continuous shrieking of chainsaws. —Joffre T. Mellari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

SM CITY ROSALES
Re-opens November 27

Christmas comes early to Pangasinan as SM City Rosales reopens to the public on Friday, November 27. It will be remembered that much of the province, along with Northern Luzon, was devastated last September due to typhoon Pepeng, and the mall's re-opening after less than two months is a positive sign that business and employment opportunities are back in the area.

Hon. Ricardo V. Perlas, Mayor of Rosales, Pangasinan, looks forward to the opening, as SM is a prime source of economic activity in Rosales, and its reopening will bring more income and employment to the municipality.

He recalls that immediately after the calamity, "SM's top management assured me that they will continue to do business in Rosales. They were here all along and with the re-opening, they have fulfilled their commitment to me."

Mr. Roberto Sapno, owner of Sapno-Tesda Optical, Inc. one of SM City Rosales' homegrown tenants, says that as a businessman, "I was impressed with SM's commitment to tenants. He myself that we can start doing business again in about 45 days after the devastating floods. It even made sure that we could open before the Christmas season so that we could immediately resume some of our losses." He says that this "as a tenant, I look forward to a continuous and harmonious relationship with the SM management."

Amie, an avid shopper of Villasis, Pangasinan sees SM's reopening as timely just before Christmas. "It's a complete one stop shop that has everything the family needs."

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy has said in a disclosure that SM has "committed up the reopening so that employees who depend on it for their livelihood can go back to their work immediately."

SM mall's ceiling has colorful rectangular shapes in concentric pattern

The Hypermarket is located at the Ground Floor level of Phase 1 of SM City Rosales

The SM Department Store of SM City Rosales

SM City Rosales' Ace Hardware

Located in a 121,885 square meter property along MacArthur Highway in Barangay Carmen East, Rosales, Pangasinan the 60,898 square meter mall brings SM's shopping, leisure, and entertainment excitement to Rosales and neighboring towns like Villasis, Sta. Maria, Balungao, Urdaneta City, Sta. Tomas, and Umingan. It also serves shoppers in Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, as well as travelers from Baguio City and the Ilocos Region.

SM City Rosales' major anchors are the SM Department Store and the SM Hypermarket, as well as SM Appliance Center, Watsons and ACE Hardware. It also has fashion boutiques, home stores, electronics, and health and personal care stores, as well as restaurants and amusement centers.

Completing the mailing experience a Food Court, and fast deluxe cinemas with a total seating capacity of 2,000. For customer convenience, the mall has parking facilities for 750 vehicles and is strategically located beside the main terminal for interprovincial public buses and jeepneys.

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It's official: Pinatubo is now owned by Aetas

By Tonton Ocejo
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—MT. PINATUBO, including the 3-km wide crater lake left by its 1991 eruption, is now officially home to a 15,000-strong tribe of Aetas in Botolan, Zambales.

Cecilio Donadel, chair of the Lahar ng Mayamas ng mga Katutubong Aeta sa Sambales (Lahar), chased this piece of information with the issuance on Thursday to be received confirmation from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) that at least 15,000 hectares have been registered in the Registry of Deeds in Zambales as a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).

NCIP Commissioner Rolando Rivera confirmed Donadel's information, saying CADT RGL-R03T0508.1171 indeed includes the volcano.

"These CADT really covers Mt. Pinatubo," Rivera said in a telephone interview.

He said a CADT registered with the Registry of Deeds "perfected the tribe's ownership and stewardship of their ancestral domains."

Registered on Oct. 3 and issued on Nov. 9, the CADT is entered as Original Certificate of Title No. CAD-01-1.

The application originally covers 28,997.89 hectares. The title was reduced to 15,998.1748 hectares after government agencies recognized and segregated private titles within ancestral domains.

The final CADT spans the villages of Burgos, Villar, Moraza and Belbel in Botolan and portions of the towns of Cabangan, San Felipe and San Marcelino, also in Zambales.

Donadel said the various straddles Hilar and Belbel.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) refers to Mt. Pinatubo and its environs as located in the tri-boundary of Zambales, Tarlac and Pampanga. The volcano's many lahar and lahar streams have drawn local and foreign tourists.

"Before the CADT came, we, Aetas of Dinalupihan, Tarlac and Zambales, Lahar ate ambon-manalay (four Dumagats is on the Botolan (Zambales) side and the lands [have] belong to us, Botolan Aetas," Donadel said.

Helping out in protect their domain from human and other foreign and local business ventures, the Botolan council hosted in August 2000 a resolution recognizing the ownership and management of Botolan Aetas over Mt. Pinatubo.

Although fighted against human farm on the Tarlac side, the Aetas have not built permanent structures to avoid all illegal settlers.

The Aetas returned to the volcano about five years after the explosion to cultivate lands there.

Although the lands were made fertile by volcanic materials, Donadel said the lack of farming and fishing tools make it difficult for the tribe to grow more rich crops.

"Our elders have been fighting for our lands since the time of Ifw. Isle former President Ferdinand E Marcos," he said.

Rivera said the NCIP had registered at least four CADTs covering 25,626 hectares in Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales and Aurora.

Pending registration are CADTs for Dinalupihan, San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan (3,827 hectares) and in Pantabangan (Nueva Ecija (25,371 hectares).

NCIP records showed there are still 11 pending applications for CADTs over 247,261.19 hectares in Central Luzon.

THIS LAKE that formed in the crater of Mt. Pinatubo after its eruption in 1991 has become a registered ancestral domain in Central Luzon. This is now officially part of Aeta ancestral domain.

Falling for Internet date cost American ₱100,000

By Dino O. Aragon
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—AMERICAN ALLAN Tess thought he was lucky to have met and become engaged to a Filipina through an Internet dating website.

He waited for her to arrive at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport in Florida in mid-October, with flowers and shoes—size 6 in hand. He was crazy.

He not only ran off with about ₱100,000 of his money but gave Tess a false name and a nonexistent address in Cebu.

He also used the photo of Filipina singer-actress Kuh Ledesma, the daughter of singer Jun Ledesma, to identify herself to Tess.

In a letter sent to Senior Supt. Benjamin Constantino Jr., chief of Cebu City Police Office (CCPO), Tess asked police to help him locate the girl who impersonated herself as Jakobee Tesibo-Manuel, who claimed to be 29 years old and a native of Dumbungan City who had established residence in Consolacion, Cebu.

"I am now asking you to look into this matter as she may be making thousands of dollars and scamming others. Moreover, if she took the money from me, where is the rest? Still in Manila or home?" Tess's letter said.

In his 10-page letter dated Oct. 19, 2000 received early this week by Constantino, Tess said he began chatting with Jakobee in early September through the dating website called "Classy Blossoms."

"We built friendship that led to a serious relationship," Tess said.

He said after Manuel agreed to become his fiancée, they began planning her trip to the United States.

Tess claimed he sent money to Manuel for his placement fee, visa processing, airline and domestic expenses in Manila totaling about ₱130,000. She was supposed to arrive on Oct. 16 in Florida.

To identify herself to Tess, Manuel sent to the American a scanned copy of supposedly her ex-visa that had Kuh Ledesma's photo on it.

In his letter to the police, Tess attached a photocopy of Jakobee's visa with Ledesma's picture on it and some photos of Lucy he stolen from her blog.

Police, however, were not equipped to handle Tess's case and decided to turn it over to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group since Benjamin has a cyber crimes section based in Camp Crame. Senior Supt. Crescente Tiston, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detective Management Branch of the Cebu police.

Police said the woman whom Tess met through the Internet obviously fooled the American.

She claimed to be staying at Talamban Highway Subdivision, Consolacion town. "Police said there was no such place in Consolacion.

An Internet search made on the name "Jakobee Tesibo-Manuel" showed that the woman the Twenty account of another foreigner, identified as a Gary Wright, who appeared to be her boyfriend, police said.

2 Batangas towns, Makati enter into sisterhood pacts

BATANGAS CITY—THE MUNICipalities of Taal and Tuy have signed entire city agreement with Makati City.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay signed the agreement with Taal Mayor Medford Marticorena Jr. at the Taal Municipal Hall at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Later, Binay went to Tuy town to sign another sisterhood pact with Mayor Edgardo Galapate.

Marticorena said in a phone interview that Taal, which is now a third class municipality, is aiming for first class status.

He said Binay promised to share Makati's benefits in terms of employment, education, transportation and hospitalization and the resort in making it a progressive city.

Binay, who knows his roots from Ibaan, Batangas, promised to give vehicles to Taal.

Galapatan said the projects and the benefits being ventured by Makati residents are proof of Binay's compassion as an executive.

Binay, who is running for vice president, said the next vice president "should be a partner, not a competitor, and someone supporting to replace the president, especially when the president has not finished his term of office." Warren Rivera, Chavez Lesaba, Inquirer Southern Luzon

THIS HOUSE on Kiram Street in Poblacion Datu Saldikhan is now deserted. This is where the Ampatuan family's patriarch Andal reportedly stays when he is in Davao City

OPULENCE One of the Ampatuan mansions in Sharif Aguak, Maguindanao, as seen from the outside

Silence engulfs mansions of Ampatuans

Prototype Art

Col. Orlan Lucino, commander of the Task Force Davao, said some members of the Ampatuano family had left the city.

Lucino said the task force also had learned that many students belonging to the Ampatuan family had stopped going to school.

Still, the task force continues to patrol the schools and the villages where the houses of the Ampatuans and their political rivals, the Mangudadatus, are located, according to Lucino.

Palace in the making

The house of Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a few meters from the high-fenced residence of his father, Andal Sr., is considered a palace in the making.

Just behind the Indonesia Consulate, the palace under construction is tended by workers and guards.

The two houses, which motorists are imposing presence for being outsizedones, have been "deserted," said a neighbor, who requested not to be identified.

"You cannot sense a single soul from any of these houses, except for the security guards. That is really something worth considering that this 600 these houses often, at least once a week, and when they do, the neighborhood would feel that there's really a party going inside — like a feast," he said.

Kasay Street

A check on the houses on Thursday showed that these were indeed deserted. The house of Andal Sr., the clan's patriarch, on Kasay Street looked desolate despite its grandeur.

The window that usually shuts for cassavas street are nowhere in sight. When the Ampatuan patriarch is around, at least 20 vehicles with red license plates line up the street, making it literally impossible for other residents.

The palace-in-the-making, owned by Zaldy Ampatuan is just as barely seen for a few construction workers.

Intimidated

Another resident of the village said fellow residents were intimidated by the presence of the Ampatuans in Davao City. He said the residents were not used to see "men walking around the village in full battle gear."

"Their men are brandishing their guns as if they are in the battlefield. This is a decent neighborhood and all of us are peace-loving. What are these guns for?" he told the Inquirer.

He said the presence of the Ampatuans in Juna Subdivision painted a bad image of the neighborhood and of the entire city.

Text messages

The excitement is expressed by many residents of the city, especially with text messages going around indicating that a violent exposé to the Maguindanao massacre would happen.

One text message read: "10 vans are coming to Davao with armed men to retaliate (against) the Ampatuans. Let us pray."

Apparently, the text message was referring to the Maguindanaos who are perceived to be waging a vendetta (war) against the Ampatuans.

Another text message asked the city government to look into the excesses of the Ampatuans while in the city.

But Lucino said the people must not worry. "The main players are not in Davao. They are in Maguindanao. I don't think that violence will reach Davao," he said.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has tasked the military and police with ensuring that the violence in Maguindanao would not spill over into Davao City.

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Witness claims he was promised money

THE MAN WHO SAID HE MET accused Monday's massacre in Maguindanao province claimed he was promised money to take part in the killings according to a correspondent of the Al-Jazeera news channel, who interviewed him.

The interview, carried locally on the ABC channel of the ABS-CBN news network, showed the man—identified only as "Boy"—to be in what looked like a room in his uncle.

He was interviewed by Al-Jazeera correspondent Margo Ortigas.

The man's face was covered with a thick mask, but eyes showing through a slit. He was clad in what appeared to be a striped black jacket.

The Inquirer could not independently verify the identity of the masked man.

Third party

Interviewed by ABC, Ortigas said that "Boy" was initially reluctant to talk but Al-Jazeera was finally able to interview him with the help of a third party, whom it did not identify.

Ortigas said "Boy" claimed that "he was under the empire of Andal Ampatuan Jr and that he was going to be paid to participate in Monday's killing."

Ortigas also said the man was "in fear right now and is hiding."

"He said ... he stood there silently—paralyzed [during the killing] unable to stop anything from happening because he feared for his own life, unable to run away," Ortigas told ABC.

Finally, "Boy" said he was able to get away, according to Ortigas.

"He says ... he fled and didn't even return home for fear of putting his family in danger," Ortigas said, adding: "It seems to me that he truly believed in what he was telling me."

Excavator left behind

In the interview, "Boy" said three supposedly involved in the killings left the scene in a hurry because they buried an excavator they found on the site.

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Excavator left behind

In the interview, "Boy" said three supposedly involved in the killings left the scene in a hurry because they buried an excavator they found on the site.

In a previous interview story, journalists on the scene of the massacre said a backhoe apparently used to dig the mass grave of the victims bore the name of Maguindanao Gov Andal Ampatuan Sr.

Police have also said that some of the 57 people killed were likely motorists who just happened to be driving past on a Maguindanao highway when gunmen fired on the cars carrying journalists and members of the family of Buluan Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu.

Andal Jr. known as 'hatchet man'

To page A2

for using fear and violence to stifle opposition and expand their power, according to the country's top human rights officials and others who have knowledge about the family.

"The Maguindanao political warlords are really the ones giving rewards or using votes to administration candidates," Leila de Lima, chair of the Commission on Human Rights, told Agence France-Presse.

She said the Ampatuan family "is the feudal" in Maguindanao.

De Lima is a former election lawyer who once represented an official who lost to an Ampatuan family member in the 2007 congressional vote to appeal the results.

'I am loved'

In a previous interview with Inquirer.net agency, Ampatuan Jr. said the reason he was able to stay long in power in Maguindanao was "because of popular support."

"Because I ran as mayor by the constituents of the municipalities, they ask me to have my son as representative," Ampatuan Jr. said in that interview, referring to his son who have also been elected into office.

De Lima said the local populace were fearful of the Ampatuans, noting that there had been brutal, but smaller-scale killings, in Monday's massacre in Maguindanao in recent years that had been linked to the family.

No one dares

Reporters in the region also said many people lived in fear of the clan.

"No one here dares to go against the Ampatuans," one local journalist said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of the family.

"It is public knowledge that the Ampatuans [is] a the hardest men for the family," the journalist who has covered the clan's excesses, claimed.

The Ampatuans belong to an old warrior lineage in Maguindanao.

Many Ampatuans also received lengthy military expression during the martial law rule of Ferdinand Marcos, according to Ashiqul Haq, an Islamic studies scholar at the University of the Philippines.

Consolidating power

There are no political peasants, however, cause values, Ampatuans by were earned either to change of the guard in Maguindanao fell in 1986, Wadi said.

He eventually was elected governor of the province in 2001, consolidating the grip on power by stockpiling arms and escaping government infiltrators that ordered to fight against insurgent groups, Wadi said.

"The Ampatuans are the political warlords in the area. Any attempt in politics by a rival family they consider as threat to their rule is violently cut short," Wadi said.

"They created power among themselves, mixing with an iron fist in Maguindanao backed up by their huge armory."

End in sight

For administration presidential candidate Gilberto Teodoro Jr., an "ending" may be in sight for the political dynasties backed up by their huge armory."

End in sight

For administration presidential candidate Gilberto Teodoro Jr., an "ending" may be in sight for the political dynasties backed up by their huge armory."

"They blow their chances to lead the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao)," said the standard-bearer of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition.

He said expelling the Ampatuans "will not hurt" the ruling party and would even present an "opportunity for Lakas to get more blood."

Security concerns

Teodoro flew from Manila to Tacurong City to personally meet witnesses to the crime and escort them to the capital. But the plan was aborted at the last minute due to security concerns, he said.

Teodoro said that "realistically speaking," a full witness told that could take from the massacre may not be over before President Macapagal-Arroyo steps down next June.

But he said what was important was for the prosecution to immediately start law "the witnesses for courage."

Reports from AFP and Rob Cosmeroy

UNDAUNTED LISTS PROTEST Indonesian veteran journalists Ashadi Siregar and Rahardi Ramelan (left) speaker during Thursday's protest by the Alliance of Independent Journalists outside the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta on Nov. 26 condemning the massacre of Filipino journalists. The group demanded the UN Human Rights Council and Asean Human Rights Commission to bring the murderers before the international criminal tribunal. AFP/ADEK BERRY/POOL

Witness: We just followed orders

To page A2

Speaking to Al-Jazeera's correspondent Margo Ortigas, "Boy" said the orders had come directly from Andal Ampatuan Jr., a local mayor and a member of a politically powerful local with close ties to the Philippine presidency.

"Datu Andal himself said, he said to us: Anyone from the Maguindanao clan—women or children—should be killed ... We don't ask why, we just followed orders."

Someone called and said soldiers were on their way.

At least 57 people died in the massacre, believed to be the worst ever politically related killings in the Philippines.

Fear for his life

"Boy," who is now in hiding fearing for his life as is danger, said all of the women in the group had been raped before being killed.

Their bodies were then dumped in mass graves that had already been dug out in advance using an excavator.

"Boy" said that Ampatuan Jr. had also ordered that the reporters accompanying the convoy should also be killed to ensure no one would be left to report what happened to the gruesome killings.

Soldiers coming

"That too was ordered by Datu Andal ... because they didn't want any evidence left behind," he said.

"Boy" said the whole process lasted limited time as soon as how before the gunmen had to abruptly abandon the scene following a warning that members of the military were nearby.

"We didn't get to finish, which is why the excavator was left there," he said.

"Soldiers called and said soldiers were on their way. I lied they have encamp here among the soldiers."

'Up to my conscience'

Speaking with his face covered to his relenting "Boy" said he was supposed to have been an active participant in the massacre but did not actually kill any of the victims.

He said he would have been shot if he had tried to intervene.

"I was just standing there," he said. "I was all alone... I could only leave it up to my conscience."

Probe points to mayor

From page A1

police director SPO2 Rudiel Bahal, officer in charge of the Datu Saudi police station, and Jessie Dap, Ariel Dongon, officer in charge of the provincial mobile group.

Pano said the four policemen, who were also linked to Manila via a commercial flight, had been identified by witnesses as among those who were present at the scene of the massacre.

Four other police officials—Insp. Armando Mariga and Insp. Arash Mohamad, chief of the provincial mobile group—are also suspected of having participated in the killings. Both have been issued administrative relief.

No appeasement

Although there have been discussions between Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza and the Ampatuan family, there has never been any negotiation or appeasement of the known political ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Pano said.

"We can assure everyone that the presence of Magsaysay is under the control of the rule of law and that the lawful authorities are in charge, that the investigation of the incident is being conducted in earnest, and those responsible will be held to account regardless of who they are," Pano said.

He also announced that volunteers, who were processed by the justice department over the past two days, were flown to Manila yesterday with Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera.

"All the statements from the witnesses under the care of the Maguindanao family have been undertaken by the Department of Justice to quarter the depositions have been taken from all the witnesses to the past day and a half," Pano said.

He said the crisis management committee formed to handle the situation in Maguindanao had to act very discreetly to ensure an effective prosecution of those involved in the killings and that Monday's massacre would not result in more unpleasant incidents in the area.

Crime scene preserved

"We had to make sure that the scene of the crime was preserved ... to prevent the flight of [suspects] and that witnesses would not be coerced into not talking," Pano explained.

"We have been clear on who are those witnesses and suspects for effective prosecution. We want charges to stick," he added.

Philippine National Police Director-General Jesus Verzosa announced that government troops and a fresh force of policemen took control of the Maguindanao capitol and the town halls of Shariff Aguak and Ampatuan town using 4 a.m. yesterday as part of operations under a state of emergency.

"The objective of this continuing operations is to make sure that the government facility to ensure subsequent government functions and protect government assets in these vital installations," Verzosa said during the press briefing.

Such actions were also in view of an "expanded investigation" that would look into the circumstances of "this barbaric crime," he added.

Verzosa said investigators continued to examine evidence, such as empty shells of varying caliber, clothing, fingerprints and the backhoe that bore the markings of the provincial government of Maguindanao.

Backhoe used to dig graves?

Pano said that investigators were trying to determine what the backhoe was doing in the area where the bodies were discovered.

He said, among the questions they need, of natures inbodie: Did it dig before the people got there? Who was the operator of the construction equipment?

"That piece of equipment is now being held as evidence but the problem is that it's not going to stand up in court, it's not enough to have any controlled operator individuals suspected of being behind this entire thing, so we have to look deeper," Pano said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the PNP have also assigned the entire stretch of the national highway leading to the three government buildings in Maguindanao "strictly off."

Special units disbanded

Acting AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ruperto Rhoning also reported yesterday that the military had deactivated and disarmed its two special commander composed of 347 armed civilians, after seven days being investigated for possible involvement in the crime.

The military has augmented its forces in Maguindanao with about a thousand men from the 46th Infantry Battalion, which has just completed its redeployment to Sulu on the day of the massacre, another infantry battalion, a Scout Ranger company, a special forces company and two motorized infantry battalions.

The National Police Commission announced it had issued a resolution revoking the control and supervision of all local officials over the police forces in Maguindanao.

NEWS

Stranded RP seamen coming home

THE GOVERNMENT WILL REPATRIATE THE 12 Filipino seamen who have been stranded in Greece since July 2009, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

The Philippine embassy in Athens was already attending to the needs of the Filipino crew of the Aries vessel which has been stopped from leaving port by the Greek government because of unpaid cargo claims.

The Filipino crew had sought the embassy's help after negotiations with the Greek vessel's owner for their unpaid salaries failed, the DFA said.

The Filipino seamen refused to leave the ship until their salaries were paid, on the advice of a non-governmental organization.

"The embassy offered the Filipino seafarers assistance for their immediate repatriation and provision of shelter at the Filipino Seafarers Resource Center pending their repatriation," the DFA said.

The embassy in Athens said it was also coordinating with the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency for the latter to provide plane tickets for the seafarers' repatriation.

The seafarers filed a case against the vessel owner, Elevot of them have availed of the legal services offered by the International Transport Federation (ITF) to pursue the case against their employer, while a Filipino ship engineer is being represented by a Greek lawyer that the embassy has provided.

In Bonito (Myanmar), a container truck from the Philippine Embassy in Rangoon has twice visited 14 Filipino fishermen detained in the Insein Prison and charged with illegal fishing.

The 14 were among the 128 fishermen on board 10 Taiwanese fishing vessels that were apprehended in Burmese waters last Dec. 18.

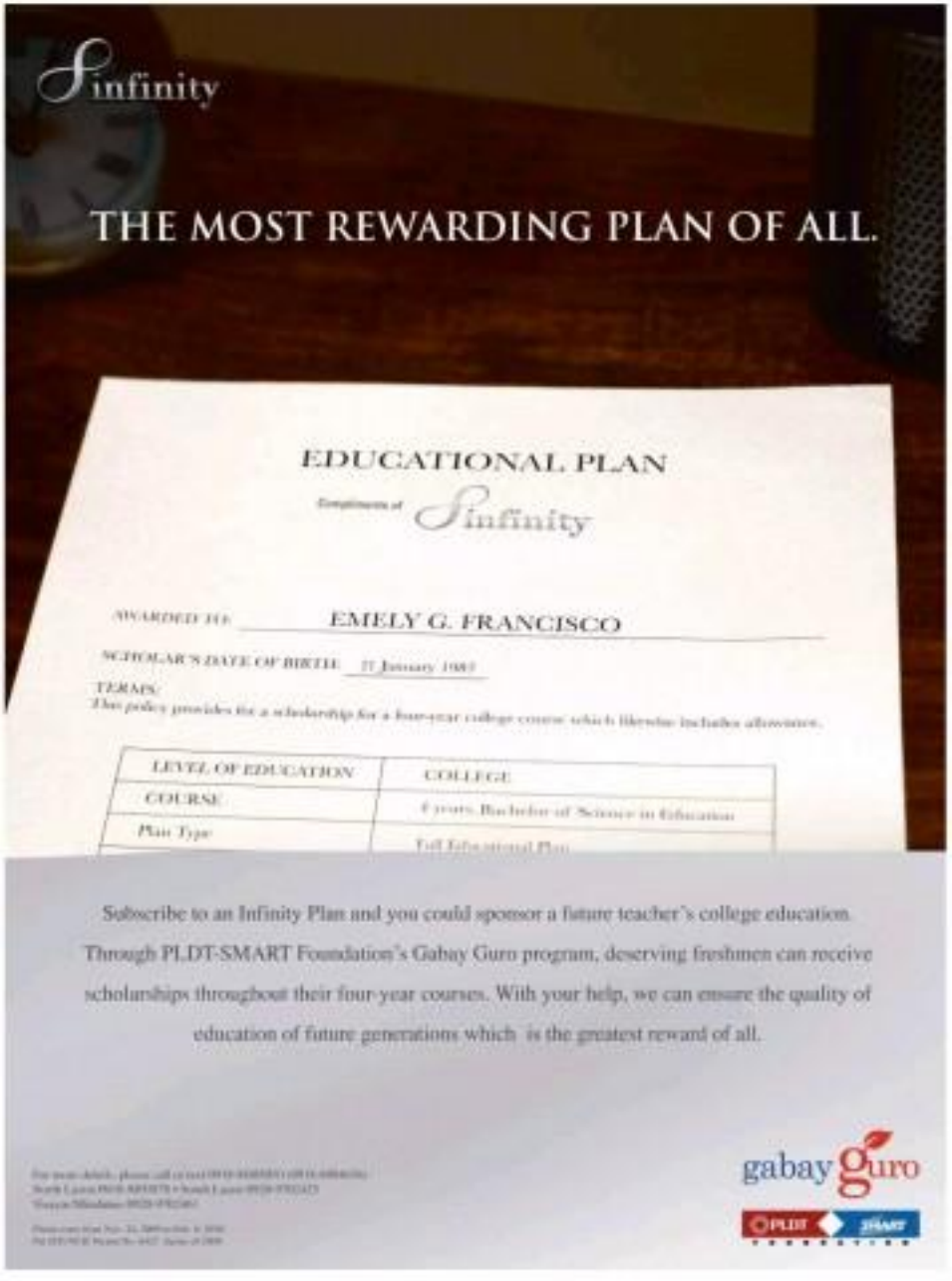
The fishermen may face prosecution by violation of immigration laws, which carries a penalty of imprisonment not exceeding three months, or payment of a fine.

The fishermen said all their personal belongings, including passports and pertinent documents, were confiscated by the Burmese Navy. The embassy has asked the Burmese authorities for the release of the Filipinos' documents and belongings.

The embassy said it was working on the immediate repatriation of the detained Filipinos, as well as making representations with the vessel owners for the payment of the fines.

It said it had been issued by Burmese authorities that the embassy would have access to the detained Filipinos.

Cynthia D. Balana



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DID YOU KNOW

THE OLD Legislative Building in Manila, which was built during the American occupation, was originally meant to be a public library.
Cyril J. Bautista
Inquirer Research

WAS SUSPECT A SOLDIER WITH US SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND?

NBI closing in on Ivler

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) agents have already established Jaime Ivler's contacts and locations where he could be hiding from investigators pursuing leads that could shed light on the fatal shooting of the son of a Malacañang official on Nov. 18.

Ivler, who was also implicated in the death of another Bulacan executive in a 2004 road accident, is a suspect in the death of Senator Manuel Roxas Jr., son of Undersecretary Renato Roxas Jr. of the Office of the President's Chief of Staff.

"We are following all leads that could lead us to him," said NBI Special Action Unit chief, lawyer Angelito Magno. "We have narrowed down his other possible hideouts to at least two targets."

Magno also said Inquirer they were also checking with the US Embassy a report that Ivler, an American, was a soldier attached to the US Special Operations Command.

Similar data was received by Inquirer through an e-mail from Ivler's mother, Marlene Aguilar, who said her son was "a highly trained soldier from the US Special Operations who served in Iraq and completed 50 deadly and risky missions in the most dangerous terrorist grounds."

Ivler, considered "trained and dangerous," by the NBI, is also the subject of a hold order issued by immigration authorities long before the Ebuen shooting incident.

Partners of Ivler, stepson of Juan Ponce Enrile, opinion desk consultant Stephen Rolbert, have been distributed for posting in strategic places, as well as ports and airports. Ivler once tried to escape from authorities in 2004 but was caught in Zamboanga City.

Ebuen Jr. was shot to death after a traffic altercation with a driver believed to be Ivler, who was driving a Blue Honda CRV with diplomatic license plates at the corner of Brod Avenue and Granada Streets in Quezon City. The driver, who shot the victim repeatedly, fled after the incident.

Magno said they invited Marlene Aguilar for questioning on Friday. Aguilar was not at her Quezon City home when NBI and PNP teams conducted a raid last week.

QC councilor bats for disaster council

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY COUNCILOR HAS proposed the creation of a National Disaster Council that would focus on addressing the adverse effects of natural calamities and climate change.

Bernadette Herrera-Dy, author of the proposed ordinance, said the council would strengthen the city government's efforts in disaster management.

"The condition have to be addressed by the Quezon City government while it still can and while it is still possible," she added.

The Natural Disaster Council will be in charge of implementing projects to address

MMDA post turnover, goodbyes too soon?

By Alfonso W. Lagos

MMDA CHAIR Bayani Fernando was reportedly not allowed a graceful exit from the agency after the Palace appointed him over one week before a formal turnover ceremony.

A source privy to the goings-on at MMDA, which Fernando headed since 2002, said it had earlier been agreed that Justice Quisumbing Buyser would begin his term after the turnover ceremony on Dec. 1. However, even as the MMDA office in Makati was still Fernando's, he was ordered by Malacañang to take over the agency.

"Nilipat na nga siya ng Malacañang, hindi pa siya binigyan ng graceful exit (He was already pushed to the gate, and yet was not even given a graceful exit)," the source, referring to Fernando, a Lakas-Kampi member since 1991.

Inquirer called Fernando on his mobile phone for comment, but he could not be reached.

The source said Sto.Tomas, undersecretary for political coalition affairs in the Malacañang Capitol Region under the Office of the President, apologized to Fernando for the early takeover and explained he was merely following orders from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"He had not even submitted his formal resignation when Malacañang chose Sto.tomas. The chairman was planning to file his certificate of candidacy [last] before he is considered resigned," added the source.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno confirmed that Sto.tomas took over on Wednesday, but said they were not really surprised when he showed up.

"The chairman was ready to leave. In fact he already cleared his desk since last week. It doesn't really matter if the new chairman came early because we are a professional group of managers," he told Inquirer.

The merged party (Nene former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro as its standard bearer, but Fernando remained committed to his plans to run for president, this time as an independent candidate).

After winning last month's Lakas-Kampi-CMD convention, Fernando declared he had cut ties with the administration party.

QC barangay official in hot water

A BARANGAY OFFICIAL OF DAMAR in Quezon City is now in hot water after he was implicated by a witness in the killing of his 21-year-old neighbor on Wednesday.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Encinas, chief of the homicide investigation section of the Quezon City Police District, named the barangay deputy executive officer as Randy Castrodes.

Encinas said Castrodes was implicated in the killing by Princess Joy Rosario, the girlfriend of Gerry Parra, who was stabbed dead by a man whom he accidentally spat on, while alighting from a passenger jeep.

"Castrodes let the suspect escape according to Rosario, who was with her boyfriend at that time," Encinas said.

Rosario alleged that Castrodes witnessed the incident and told her boyfriend to run away, but the suspect caught up with him and stabbed him to death.

Castrodes could not be reached for comment.

Mercy C. Carvajal

'PASKUHAN SA TIGER CITY'

A giant Christmas tree was lighted by Muntinlupa City officials, led by Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, at the City Hall grounds on Monday in ceremonies marking the Yuletide countdown. More than 200 booths selling assorted goodies were also opened, along with an amusement park featuring fun rides. The countdown will end on Dec. 31.

METRO BRIEFS

Concert for Tara

Abbie Bautista, a victim of a jeepney robbery incident who passed away last July 27, will be the subject of a benefit concert organized by her family and friends on Nov. 28. The concert, dubbed "Tara's Theme Music, Friendship and Love," will be held at 7 p.m. at Maxim's Theater in Timog, Quezon City. The concert is a tribute to her through the music she loved. Proceeds from the concert will help pay for medical bills and funeral expenses incurred during her 10-month stay in the hospital before her death. Lara and Anne Carmichael Tara, an Ateneo University graduate, worked as a newscaster and news reporter, and an avid artist. For tickets, call 809-1482 and contact Jerry and Anne Tara. Bikini at 882-4888/888 and 882-8888. —Abbie Catherine Calleja

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GREENBELT

PHOC DONATES TO FLOOD VICTIMS. Philippine National Red Cross Chairman Richard Gordon welcomes PHOC employees when they visited the Red Cross office to donate almost one million pesos worth of goods to meet the basic needs of typhoon victims.

Manila Joins Forces with Manila Water and the Philippine Waterworks Association (PWWA) in Typhoon Ondoy Relief Efforts L-R: Manolo Javier (PWWA Office Manager), Randy Sawa (Manila Sales Manager), Neil Gordon (Manila Marketing & Business Development Manager), Ng Wooi Choy (Manila Executive Director), Engr. Ramon Calara (PWWA President), Nestor Jerik Sevilla Jr. (Manila Water Company Inc. Manager Corporate Communications Department), Diane Del Rosario (Chairperson, PWWA Committee on Professional Dev't & Awareness), Engr. Antonio Magtibay (PWWA Director), Lino Diamante (Chairman PWWA All-Star Committee on Technopreneurship), Jerry Catalonia (Manila Water Company Inc. Business Development Manager).

QC ...

From page A1

and control the effects of natural calamities, as well as of global warming and climate change, according to By.

The councilor pointed out that Quezon City is the site of La Mesa Dam, which is used as a reservoir for Metro Manila and which relieves huge volumes of water when it overflows.

While released from the dam during heavy rains can relieve heavily in flooding in the city.

Composition

Under the proposal, the Quezon Disaster Council will be composed of the Office of the Building Official, Task Force for the Control, Prevention, and Removal of Illegal Structures and Signboards, City Planning and Development Office, Department of Public Order and Safety, Quezon City Bureau of Fire, City Health Department and Urban Poor Affairs Office.

The council will be tasked to create a contingency disaster and risk management organization in case of floodwoods and other calamities.

Funds for the council will come from one percent of the gross sales share of Quezon City from any government-owned or controlled corporation.

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Polanski wins $4.5M bail; house arrest likely

GENEVA—ROMAN POLANSKI THE MAN granted $4.5 million bail, clearing the way for the fugitive director to leave Swiss detention for house arrest in his Alpine resort chalet.

The justice minister said Wednesday she was in contact to appeal the surprise decision by the Swiss Criminal Court. Polanski would have to remain in Switzerland as authorities assess whether to extradite him to the US for having sex in Los Angeles in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

Ministry spokesman Folco Galli said the final decision on transferring Polanski to his chalet in the Swiss resort of Gstaad would be made "quickly."

"The 76-year-old appellant is married and the father of two minors," the court said in its ruling, and Polanski's offer of a cash bail secured by his apartment in Paris "if can be assumed that in a responsible father he will, especially in view of his advanced age, attach greater importance to the financial security of his family than a younger person."

The court said Polanski would be subjected to "constant electronic surveillance" at his chalet and no doors would be answered if he knows the premises or notice of the transfer, adding that the filmmaker was still viewed as a high flight risk.

The decision came as a surprise after a series of setbacks for the director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist."

The Justice Ministry ordered Polanski arrested Sept. 26 as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival.

Swiss legal experts Ted Leibowitz and Peter Fako-

POLANSKI

ris's chances of bail were dim, and even US authorities expressed satisfaction that a Swiss court wouldn't grant his release.

The court last month rejected Polanski's first bail offer of his Gstaad chalet as collateral, saying the director claimed Gstaad-type assets were less than half of his personal wealth and would definitely guard against his flight because he has two children he must support through school.

The court demanded cash instead, and this time backed favorably on Polanski's offer of a bank guarantee and the threat of sacrificing his family's home if he fled.

A decision on extraditing Polanski to Los Angeles is still pending, and would also be subject to appeals.

For the duration of the procedures, it appears Polanski will be confined to his 10.5 million chalet surrounded by manicured peaks on the outskirts of Gstaad, one of the most exclusive winter resorts in the world. Celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor and Roger Moore have called the town home, and it remains popular with celebrities and royalty.

Polanski was accused of raping the 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy.

AP

1st time in a decade for US: Obama offers emissions targets

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA is pledging a provisional target for reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions in the United States, the first time in more than a decade that a US administration has offered even a tentative promise to reduce production of climate-altering gases, the White House announced Wednesday.

At the international climate meetings in Copenhagen next month, Obama will tell the delegates that the United States intends to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions "in the range of" 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050, officials said.

The figures reflect targets specified by legislation that passed the House in June but is stalled in the Senate. Congress has never enacted legislation that includes firm emissions limits or ratified an international global warming agreement with binding targets.

Obama still intends to the US talks to deliver the promise in hopes of spurring significant progress there. He will appear Dec. 9, near the beginning of the 12-day session, on his way to accept the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on Dec. 10, officials said.

By making the pledge to an international forum, Obama is laying a bet that Congress will complete action on a climate bill next year and will be prepared to ratify an international agreement based on the commitments.

But White House officials acknowledged that those assumptions were uncertain. They will depend in large measure on whether the Democratic sponsors of the legislation can win 60 votes for a measure that is at the same time palatable and whether major developing nations, notably China and India, deliver credible measures to reduction pledges of their own.

Obama, who had not previously committed either to emissions targets or to going to Copenhagen, has been under considerable pressure from other world leaders and environmental advocates to reassert US leadership on climate change.

AOY

WorldBriefs

Pakistan charges 7 suspects in Mumbai attacks

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan has charged seven men in last year's Mumbai attacks in its first major move to crack open testing murders by India and the United States in one of Islamabad's nastiest spats on promises to bring those responsible to justice. Despite a crackdown in the months following the attacks, analysts say Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistani-militant group blamed for the three-day assault on the financial center that killed 166 people, remains active and largely untouched by Pakistani authorities. The Mumbai attacks halted a slow-moving peace process between Pakistan and India—which have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947—and ratcheted up tensions over disputed area Kashmir, which they both claim. India says Pakistan must crack down on militants before talks can resume. The charges were announced Wednesday in a closed door court located inside a high-security prison in Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, on the eve of the first anniversary of the attacks.

AP

Israel halts some settlement in West Bank

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered a 10-month freeze on some building in West Bank settlements on Wednesday, pleasing the United States but Palestinians said it was not enough to restart peace talks. Allies of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is under pressure from US President Barack Obama to drop a demand that an 11-month old suspension of negotiations should stand only if Israel stops construction on land it occupied in 1967, said Netanyahu's plan to keep building around Jerusalem was unacceptable. The decision, announced personally by Netanyahu on senior Likud lawmakers and hailed by most left-wing Israeli politicians as "historic," may put new pressure on Abbas to sit down with the Israeli leader after strong endorsement of the measure from the Obama administration in Washington.

REUTERS

Gas pedals that stick force recall of Toyotas

DETROIT—Toyota said Wednesday it would have to fix the gas pedals of about four million vehicles, including this Camry, to resolve a problem that can cause sudden unintended acceleration. The announcement was another setback for Toyota, which until last year appeared all but unstoppable. Its disciplined business approach, surging profits and reputation for quality helped it take market share from troubled competitors, and even from General Motors the title of world's largest automaker. Under the new recall, Toyota will shorten gas pedals by three-quarters of an inch, starting in January, and in some cases remove padding from the floor to prevent the pedals from getting stuck on floor mats. The recalls covered include the 2007-10 Camry sedan and Tundra pickup trucks; 2005-10 Avalon sedan and Tacoma pickup; 2004-9 Prius hybrid; and three models from its Lexus division: the 2007-10 ES350 and 2006-10 IS250 and IS350. The affected models comprise nearly half of all the Toyotas sold in the United States over the last several years.

AOY

China: Christians jailed after protecting church

BEIJING—A court in northern China sentenced five church leaders to up to seven years in prison after they tried to stop their place of worship being torn down, their lawyer said Thursday. The five were sentenced by a court in Linfen city, Shanxi province, on Wednesday after being convicted of "illegally occupying farm land" and "destroying transportation through a mass gathering," a hearing told AFP. "I was shocked at the seriousness of the punishment. This shows that the government is intent on using the law as a tool to attack the church," Li said.

AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gonzalez

Couple crashes Obama dinner

WASHINGTON—CRASHING A STATE DINNER AT THE White House apparently takes a security breakdown as well as some kind of nerve.

The Secret Service is looking into its own security procedures after determining that a Virginia couple, Tareq and Michaele Salahi, managed to slip into Tuesday night's state dinner at the White House even though they were not on the guest list, agency spokeswoman Jennifer Donovan said.

President Barack Obama was never in any danger because the party crashers went through the same security screening as an estimated 300 other people originally invited to the dinner honoring Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Donovan said.

Donovan could not describe the identities of the couple. The Washington Post, which first reported on their crashing out, said the Salahis were well-known in the Virginia horse-country set and were being considered for the Bravo reality TV show "Real Housewives of D.C."

In an interview with the "CBS Early Show" in September, Michaele Salahi said: "President Obama has made it very accessible for anyone to visit the White House, so that's like a big thing right now."

The CBS interview was part of a segment on potential candidates for "Real Housewives of D.C." (See next story.)

The Secret Service learned about the security breach Wednesday after a media inquiry prompted by the Salahis' online boasts about having attended the private event, Donovan said.

One of the many photos from the dinner posted on Michaele Salahi's Facebook page shows the couple with a smiling Vice President Joe Biden. In other photos, they appear alone or together with White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, Washington Mayor Adrian Fenty, CBS News anchor Katie Couric, Republican Rep. Jo Bonis and Steve Madden in their dress finest.

Donovan would not comment on whether the couple had been contacted by the Secret Service, how long they were on the White House grounds or other details of the investigation.

The Post said it attempted repeatedly to reach the Salahis by phone and e-mail but received no response. Efforts to reach them through Facebook were also unsuccessful.

The Salahis' Facebook page said Michaele Salahi is a former model and actress who has appeared in the movie "Pretty Woman" and on the television show "Dancing With the Stars." Tareq Salahi is listed as a former professional football player who played for the Washington Redskins and the Miami Dolphins.

Michaele Salahi's Facebook page said she was a guest at the White House for a dinner honoring Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on November 24, 2009.

Tareq Salahi's Facebook page said he was a guest at the White House for a dinner honoring Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on November 24, 2009.

Tareq Salahi's Facebook page said he was a guest at the White House for a dinner honoring Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on November 24, 2009.

TAREQ Salahi (right) and Michaele Salahi arriving for the State Dinner in honor of India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the White House on

White House staff dipped flatterly.

Donovan would not comment on possible legal violations.

The agency's Office of Professional Responsibility was reviewing what occurred. An initial finding indicated that a checkpoint did not follow proper procedures to ensure the men were on the guest list, Donovan said.

"It's happenstance sure that they were through all the security screenings—the magnetometer screenings—just like all the other guests did," Donovan said. And, he added, Obama and other senior Secret Service protectee had their usual security details with them at the dinner. AP

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White House: US will be out of Afghanistan by 2017

WASHINGTON—THE (NEW) (SURE) will not be in Afghanistan eight years from now, the White House said on Wednesday, as President Barack Obama prepared to explain to Americans next week why he is expanding the war effort.

After months of deliberation and fending off Republican charges that he was dithering on Afghanistan while violence flared, Obama will address the nation on Tuesday on the way forward in the costly and unpopular eight-year war.

He is expected to announce he is sending about 30,000 more troops to join 68,000 American troops in a military strategy that will place greater emphasis on attacking the sanctuary of fighters in Pakistan's border areas.

It appears highly unlikely Obama will offer a specific troop withdrawal timetable, but White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the president would state that the US involvement in Afghanistan was not open-ended.

"We are in your side of our effort in Afghanistan, we are not going to be there another eight or nine years," Gibbs told reporters. "But [how there will be details] and that is important for people to understand," he said.

He said Obama would use his prime-time televised speech to frame the "three cost" of the war, explain to American why their military was still in Afghanistan, and press Afghan President Hamid Karzai to improve governance after being re-elected in a fraud-tainted vote in August.

"The American people are going to want to know why we are here, they are going to want to know what our interests are," Gibbs said.

The White House has estimated it will cost $1 million per year for each additional soldier sent to Afghanistan, with the U.S. deficit hitting $1.4 trillion and funding Americans' concerns about high government spending, making more troops to Afghanistan could be a politically risky move for Obama.

Obama's fellow Democrats, who control the US Congress, face potentially difficult midterm elections in November 2010, with Republicans eager to exploit Americans' unease about the country's ballooning deficit and high unemployment.

Two veteran Democratic lawmakers have already called for imposing a "war tax" to pay for the troop increase.

Gibbs said Obama would meet with key lawmakers to brief them about his plan ahead of his Tuesday speech. Key lawmakers in the House of Representatives and the Senate will hold briefings next Wednesday and Thursday with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen.

Gibbs said the financial cost of the conflict—which reached $827 billion to date alone—and the physical toll it has taken on the US military made the war unsustainable in the long term.

"It is very, very, very expensive," Gibbs said.

Obama will again press Karzai to improve the performance of his corruption-plagued government. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

So tackles Kamsky after booting out Ivanchuk /A31

SPORTS

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Nuggets deal Wolves 14th straight loss /A31

WORLD 10-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Orcollo, Corteza reach last 64

By Cedelf P. Tapus

FILIPINOS DENNIS ORCOLLO and Lee Van Corteza blitzed through the round of 64 by scoring their second straight victories yesterday in the World 10-Ball Championship at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Alcantara (in blue) lets his feet, Orcollo still proved too sharp for Poland's Thorsten Kaplan, 9-5, while Corteza ousted shockwaves by blanking highly touted Taiwanese Tang Ching-chun, 9-0.

Despite the win, Orcollo, a 9-6 winner over compatriot Dave Vilallad late Wednesday, believes his game needs a lot of improvement.

"Sa 64 struggling siguradito with my break," said Orcollo, who spent most of yesterday shampooing his game at the practice table.

Orcollo took no sh*t the last eight racks to beat Kaplan, who was looking to follow up his upset of fourteen-time World No. 1 Ralf Soquet.

With the loss, Kaplan found himself on the brink of elimination just like Soquet, who kept his bid alive by erasing Villamil, 9-1.

FOCUSED world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo proves no slump for his Polish foe.

As one of the top remaining Filipino players in Asia, poised easy picking for the 36-year-old Corteza, who upstaged his countrymate with a 9-4 clubbing of Nguyen Kunthamarin of Slovenia Wednesday night.

"I got lucky when he scratched in the opening rack," said Corteza, who reached the round of 32 in the 2007 World 9-Ball Championship also held here.

Intercontinental Pool, a no-frills amateur billiard organization based in Asia, has become the second Filipino to have won after losing to double world champion Ronnie Alcano, 9-8, last night.

Australian Shane Van Boening also got the best after dropping a 9-5 decision to Russian Konstantin Stepanov.

Defending champion Dennis Agdeppa of Baguio led the Europe champs in the round of 64 by dumping MD Alim of Brunei, 9-2.

Japan had two players in the knockout round with Satoshi Ori leading Hironal Ruspot of Poland, 9-8, and Kimiti Hishiki leaving Finland's Mika Immonen, 9-6.

Chinese Jeto Pei Jiunhe and Li Hewen also reached the round of 64, along with the Netherlands' Nelis Pelen, Kenan Kwok of Hong Kong, Ruslan Chinakhov of Russia, Roman Hybler of the Czech Republic, Mendoza Ignacio Cleaver and Marcello of Austria.

Fu nipped Sweden's Marcus Chamat, 9-8, while Li won the last seven racks to rally past Filipino upstart Jeanai de Guzman, 9-6.

Rajon Sean Chang Jin-wei of Chinese Taipei, 9-8, Chinakhov triumphed over Oliver Ortmann of Germany, 9-5, Hybler outplayed Matjaz Kozuh of Slovenia, 9-4; his cruelest Turkey's Mehmet Gedanz, 9-3, and Chanes defeated Mamasali Hjaiyon Ash Teen, 9-5.

In other matches Wednesday night, Markus Rhande beat Australian Steve Mosey, 9-4; Roberto Gomez, who rose to prominence when he finished second in the 2007 World 9-Ball Championship, overwhelmed Russia's Alphonse Hoga, 9-2; Nhoma Manso stunned England's Phil Burford, 9-4; Michael Mitchum toppled Fabrizio Gennaro of Spain, 9-2; Carlo Biado downed Ghana's Le Hidzo, 9-6; Antonio Lining defeated Lu Wei Chun of China, and Joshe Bonomo topped Jacobi Mazza, 9-6.

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Que, Pucay 10 off WC lead

MAYAKEH, CHINA—BOBBY MCILROY and Graeme McDowell were up the course with a 14-under par 58 to give Ireland a three-stroke lead after the first round four-ball at the 39th World Cup of Golf on Thursday.

Perfect conditions at Mission Hills and the course had the ball favored but to a number of birdies and eagles throughout the field but the second round by the two Ulstermen was a class above their rivals.

Although a shot short of the World Cup four-ball record, it was enough for a comfortable cushion over second-placed Argentines duo Rafa Echenique and Tano Goya, who carded 60.

The Philippine teams of Angelo Que and Juvic Pucay finished with a 68 to a tie with Australia and Brazil with four teams, including hosts, bringing up the rear with 69s.

Que contributed four birdies against a bogey while Pucay finally teamed with a birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie finish.

World No. 16 McIlroy stunned a 33-foot eagle putt at the par-five 15th and was one-two strokes away from dropping in for another at the next hole before grabbing Ireland's 10th and 11th birdies of the day to take the outright lead.

Reuters

The scores:

(a—Ireland (J. Lawless, G. McDowell, P. Mitchell, R. McIlroy, S. Dodds, D. Feherty, M. Harrington, P. Kelly, J. Molloy, G. Murphy, D. Smyth, D. Clarke, R. Lee, D. Howell, S. Gallacher, P. Casey, L. Donald, L. Westwood, I. Poulter, J. Rose, S. Ames, R. Karlsberg, M. Wallace, R. Fisher, J. Kingston, S. Hend, M. Foster, M. Warren, D. Gilford, M. Haworth, M. Pilkington, R. Green, A. Oldcorn, M. Roe, P. Baker, P. Broadhurst, G. Orr, A. Forsbrand, C. Montgomerie, P. Lawrie, M. Jonzon, R. Karlsson, P. Fulke, P. Edfors, M. Persson, J. Haeggman, P. Nihat, S. Ozturk, M. Siem, T. Gogel, M. Campbell, D. Russell, P. Senior, G. Turner, M. Cooper, P. Fowler, A. Bickerton, A. Coltart, G. Owen, R. Claydon, R. Chapman, J. Quinney, S. Webster, R. Bland, S. Gallacher

Kings, Texters shoot for No.6 vs lowly foes

By Mayong R. Castillo

BARANGAY GINEBRA'S MAIN STRENGTH —and what makes the team the PBA's record darling—has been its backcourt.

Now, the Gin Kings look like they don't have one left.

Ginebra tries to secure a two-game slide, still the mayhem of the guard rotation, out of commission, when it takes on last-ranked Air21 tonight in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Ynares Center here.

"We didn't expect this to happen," coach Jong Uichico said the moment over the phone yesterday minutes before his depleted squad worked out without reigning MVP Jayjay Helterhoff, Orlando Vosotros and guardslinger Mark Caguioa.

"What would have brought Basi (Jose Ma.) out would not set of point guards," Uichico said. "But definitely, we will go with what we have to practice."

Game-time is 7:30 p.m. with the Kings counsel, rival Tim Cone bringing even if the Tipitos have not been playing words of late. In fact, rebounding Coca-Cola will resurrection the game on a three-game losing streak.

Talk 'N Text, which routed Ginebra Monday night, battles Shaggy King tonight at 5 p.m.

The Whoppers are seeking to extend a two-game winning streak against the defending champion Tigers.

Uichico said that Johnny Abarrientos, the two-time MVP with Alaska and members of the league's 25 Greatest Players club, and rookie Kevin White will be the stars at the point.

The Ginebra coach said that several names, as backcourt replacements for his players, have been mentioned, although he hasn't talked to anyone yet because the team cannot offer anyone a long-term deal or contract.

It would be interesting to see how Abarrientos responds to that slur calling the Hi-Flyer.

Kept on the reserves' list for more than a year, Abarrientos, also with Hotlegs and abused, played his first game three weeks ago against Red Bull. He did a pretty well until it took an elbow while going for a rebound blow with exactly cut to the right knuckle finger.

Helterhoeed will miss action for at least one more week because of a bruised knee, while Caguioa remains out of the loop because of a knee injury.

Gyn Bonifacio's finger on his right hand and Uichico said the coaching staff has yet to get a complete diagnosis on the injury from team physicians.

NCCU Villanueva of Barangay Ginebra scores an underpost and-one off Mac Barasaol of Smart Gilas. PHILSTAR

RP Nokia U-16 five up vs mighty Chinese

NO DUE WITH A DAUNTING TASK, NORTH Team Pilipinas would rather win against powerhouse China on the playing court than out of it.

Besides more raised over the eligibility of some Chinese players in the ongoing Nike Asia U-16 Men's Championship after they demolished all their rivals with ease, according to Rowcell Ick Abrinidores yesterday.

"It seamlessly brings it up, there we will support it," said Abrinidores on the eve of the Philippines' semifinal duel with unbeaten China. "But we still can take the heat."

Officials of the Nike Asia regional board reportedly brought up the idea of conducting random bone exams to determine the real age of the Chinese players.

With an average ending of 6-foot-4, the Chinese team could easily pass off as a seasoned collegiate squad after crushing the high school players from Chinese Taipei by 47 points (108-61), Korea by 76 (123-61) and Japan by 90 (115-65).

If proven guilty and assuming China captures the crown, Nike Asia could reap it of its title and award Asia's two spots in the Nike World U-17 Men's Championship in Hamburg, Germany, to the runners-up.

"We'd rather win the game on the court than in the boardroom," said Abrinidores. "We're going to fight until the end."

The Filipinos dumped the Indonesians to arrange a semifinal encounter with the top-seeded Chinese in a game scheduled time but night. Iran nudged Korea in the other pairing.

Abrinidores said the RP team battled the Chinese twice this year—in the Nike All-Asia Basketball Camp in Beijing last June and the Asian Youth Games in Singapore last August.

"We just have to find a way to hide our weaknesses and use our strength, which is speed and ball handling, to our advantage," said Abrinidores.

"The Chinese are not kids; they're giants. They have a mature game and they know how to win a big game like this."

According to Abrinidores, the Nokia-16 team also played the Chinese in a series of tuneup games in Beijing last July where the coaching staff and players were given the rare opportunity to interact with Chinese coaches and visit their training facilities.

Jane Navarro

Frugal RP Open at Malarayat next month

By Mayong R. Castillo

LIGHTS, TEE, TEEING TIMES, THE Imtrand Golf Association of the Philippines has decided to hold the 93rd Philippine Open to ensure the continuation of Asia's oldest national championship.

Mount Malarayat in Lipa City will host the event, slated for a five- to 10-stretches at the Monte Lobo and Malipayo nines, the same nines used the last time the Open was held there in 2008, when Australian Antonio Stevens won.

SGAF president and Transportation secretary Leandro Mendoza, made the announcement before a select group of members of the DOTC offices yesterday.

A total purse of P1.5 million—comprised by the P500,000 (about P14,35 million) champion's share the 92nd Open—will be at stake with the winners getting home with P410,000 and the runner-up P200,000.

The SGAF expects the Open to be an all-Filipino affair, although foreigners are welcome to play.

Mendoza cited the continuity of the event as the main reason for pulling it up despite the very short notice.

The SGAF did not ask for an Asian Tour sanction this year because of budget constraints. The SGAF originally envisioned to cough up the required P800,000+ needed to run the event and expose it globally.

Angelo Que is expected to play and defend his title in an Open that will be only the third all-Filipino event in record memory.

Ronald Rotabio and Felix "Caesar" Casas won all-Filipino Opens, pulling if off in 2000 and 2002 at the Mimosa in Silang, Cavite and Southwoods, respectively.

Cebu Niños gain Smart Liga finals

By Jose Navarro

CEBU CITY—Mr. Dhaliber Rosete, Pelado Cebu coached Mikasa Cebuano, Mr. Nat, Jr. last night and advanced to the finals of the 2009 Smart Liga Philippine Inter-Island 3 at the Cebu Coliseum.

The Mikat clinched their first championship berth after they got Leg while extending their Smart Liga run streak to 19 as they held Mikasa scoring machine Rhea Faith Cabading to seven points, a far cry from his 20-point mean in the past three games.

The Cebuano team now has its 13-14 rivalry with Mikasa in the finals after the latter ousted Cebu Navy, 25-23, 25-17, 25-20 in the other semifinal duel.

The Mikat, who fell to 3-1, will meet likely take the No. 2 slot, if they achieve that, they will duke it it reddish-hot Navy team for the championship title bout opposite the Mikat.

The Cebuanos broke away from 13-14 to take the first game, 25-23, and set up Leg fulfillment. They pulled away for good at 20-14 in the third period.

Top scorers:

CEBU 91—Alquinto 9, Rosete 11, Cabuay 7, Sabalaza 9, Daniel Abalos 6, Pablo 5, Rubio 9, Jaime 2, Rimando, Palapalan.

MIKASA 84—Silva 8, Lamoste 8, Cabading 7, Bonoan 7, Ahmad 5, Capal 5, Ingcoy 5, Arao 3, Dulay 2, Chua 2, Jabson, Lingcod.

Scores: 13-C 28-25, 25-18, 25-19

RAMOS. Quinnesse shine

Action continues at Club 456 Sports Center shifting to the badminton hall of the Wilad Memorial Sports Complex in the Dad Fun Days of the event.

Contact: (Ms.) Ani Mallonga on tel. 3031879; fax 3031875; mobile 0919-5417619; and 09322047274; e-mail jenbe_13@yahoo.com and philippinebadminton@gmail.com.

For chess results and updates, visit www.nashchess.com and www.chessmetro.com.

Jaymiker M. Reyes

Ming youth badminton under way

NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM MEMbers lead more than 100 players cleaning for top honors in the Wing Kamao Youth Cup Victor age group badminton championships tonight starting tonight at Club 456 in Libis, Quezon City.

Paul Rivas, Jigue Ramirez, Mohammad Alvin Victor Nicdao and Gellen Estrella remain to stand in their respective divisions in the tournament, which also serves as a tryout for the national youth training pool.

Organized by the Philippine Badminton Association (PBA), the tourney will feature nine competitions for 11 saudes, 13 saudes, 15 saudes, 17 saudes and 19 saudes in the boys' and girls' divisions.

Tigresses, Lady Falcons try to forge title clash

By Cedrik F. Tejon

OGOMO COBRA down following its semifinal exercise today in the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference men's finals at the FEOB Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Tigresses meet the Far Eastern Lady Tamaraw at 3 p.m. with a rest going UST the first 8-win slot and a chance to sweep the league's ninth season title.

The Lady Falcons can deliberate the San Sebastian Lady Stags with a victory in their 4 p.m. clash, and Adamson coach Oslee Ponce is confident they can pull off a sweep of their semifinal series.

"We can finish thirty off to Game 2 with the win we played in Game 1," said Ponce, whose squad's only finish appearance in last year's first conference.

If Adamson and UST prevail, it will mark the first time the two squads will play in a V-League title series. The Tigresses, who held the league's best win-loss record, are actually making a second eighth championship appearance.

Ponce will be on skipper Angelie Bernal, who was instrumental in the Lady Falcons' run when she watched the league-best output of 17 points in a 25-17, 25-20, 25-20 win over the 11-11 mix.

The Lady Tamaraw are hoping to use it as a lethargic outing in Game 1, when the Tigresses coasted there, 25-20, 25-21, 25-20.

SPORTSWATCH

SEA Games officials Scoop guests

CHEF DE MISSION CARLOS MARIO TABUENA (R) ENDORSES THE Philippine delegation's readiness at the 25th Southeast Asian Games in today's meeting for Air-conditioned interior Pasay Pavilion.

Philippine Olympic Committee officials are also expected and some congressmen are also permitted Mark Joseph will accompany Tabuena as the team representative by Janet.

'Bakbakan' goes to Pasay today

AT LEAST SOMETHING IS SURE TO GET YOU OUT OF BED ON A THURSDAY MORNING. THE 2009 PBA Philippine Basketball Association Tri-Hing Derby" heads to the Pasay City Cultural Center.

National Federation of Basketball Retailers (NBR) president Ricky Palattanan, Jr. said they have lined up various championship rounds at different venues for accommodate the big field of finalists.

100 Fights in Bacolor derby

A RECORD-SHATTERING 100 FIGHTS OVER 100 RIGHTS HAVE been scheduled for the seventh anniversary celebration of the Bacolor Cockpit Arena in Bacolor, Pampanga.

Nonito Jet Fernando, Jun and Rudy Jaygo said the event will be a showdown of renowned cockers from Pampanga, Metro Manila, Batangas, Negros Occ., Tarlac and Pangasinan.

PBA (politics, basketball, 'artistas')

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Jun Saavedra

THE 1989 Jaycee Championship for most years decisive has not concluded but the public decision are already positioning themselves for whatever can they're interested in.

It's game time as alliances are broken and forged could without having no contests. There is the commissioner's office to witness the sending here and as everyone looking for an edge makes sense.

The Finals bought known as pop album sidebar is "REAL" is that complete with Felix, Basketball and Asmon (senior) filling out media space, workplace conversation and family get-togethers.

Everyone who is planning to run for an appointive or a position, either haphazardly flashed out or really produced spots. And it is disappointingly underwhelming that given the problems besetting our nation, spoon to run seem to devote 10 seconds on the national or local agenda issues.

Instead, the economy, political stability, poverty, climate change and a host of other ongoing problems for currently consume even passing money in sports or the construction of new infrastructure by running such developments.

Sports will just have to wait for an entrance something to flow down down the big guy problems.

And yet sports should not be merely a political afterthought. Some seem to think sports can be done simultaneously while addressing way bigger issues. Sports, they say, is the one area can provide an inspirational lift to a country in search of heroes. It can provide pride for play and the sheer enjoyment of games.

There are three things the political leaders can consider for a sports agenda.

First, because a culture of sports participation. On the national and local levels, opportunities should be provided for sports to be played and enjoyed on highly competitive, as well as recreational levels. Of public or provincial sports endeavors will inspire ill-spoon of all ages to get into sports, regardless of skill or financial capability.

Second, provide incentives for sports leaders, government and the private sector to create supplies to help sports. The latter should ensure he does not lose about helping sports at all levels.

When different people with their own agendas are called to work in one, a clash of interests usually ensues. But if governments officials are to be guided by consensus and negotiations, some common ground can be found for sport to prosper and progress.

Third, initiate the building of first sports facilities. A well-built sports arenas can be a model purpose building, as we often still remember of the kind here.

They need not be air-conditioned, which is clearly the biggest cost hindrance in any new planning a sports center to a city or province. With some draft planning and architectures, reliable sports facilities can be constructed with zero cost winds providing the ventilation.

Which of the politicians have economic sports agenda?

Perhaps we should ask them. We should ask if sports will have some time in their schedules once they are elected.

SO far, so good.

So tackles Kamsky after booting out Ivanchuk

KHANTY-MANSIYSK, RUSSIA—PEDRO Gruendeutsch Newby he claimed the biggest scalp of his young career Wednesday night, sending a 1.5–.5 victory over super GM Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine to barge into the third round of the 2009 World Chess Cup of the Bloody-Mandych Center of Arts.

Continuing his strong showing against higher-rated players, the 16-year-old Ivanchuk in a fighting draw in the second game of their second round encounter to forge a throwdown with defending champion GM Gata Kamsky of the United States.

So stunned the stiff-worded Ivanchuk (Elo 2758) with the black pieces in Game 1 Tuesday night (Elo confidence booster), he then adeptly knocked white to force Ivanchuk to a draw after 40 moves of Ruy Exchange Variation despite being under time pressure (seven minutes to Ivanchuk's 52 minutes in the endgame).

Though rated lower than Ivanchuk with his Elo of 2695, the Batman-born Kamsky is dressed even more formidable, having won the 2007 edition of the biennial tournament. Kamsky had ousted Filipino GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. in the first round and Chilenow GM Zhou Jianqi in the second.

With his victory over Ivanchuk and a +4-1 [illegible] compare of GM Gadir Guseinov of Azerbaijan in the opening round, he became the first Filipino to gain the third round of the knockout tournament, eclipsing the achievements of Antonio and GM Mark Paragua, who both reached the second round of the event in separate occasions.

Asia's first GM Eugenio Torre went as far as the quarterfinals, but neither is still around to add championship-threatening bronze.

Nuggets deal Wolves 14th straight loss

MINNEAPOLIS—CARMELO ANTHONY SCORED 22 points and Nene had 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Denver Nuggets handed the Minnesota Timberwolves their 14th straight loss with a 124-111 victory on Wednesday.

The Timberwolves have not won since an opening night victory over San Antonio. They 1-14 mark is the worst 15-game start in team history.

Chris Bosh had the third double-double of his career with a career-high 22 points and 15 rebounds. Jason Kidd scored 20 points for the Nets, who cut the lead to eight points in the fourth before pulling to yet another loss.

Cavaliers 98, Pistons 88

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, LeBron James scored 22 of his 34 points in the first quarter to help Cleveland build a cushion it used to cruise to a win over Detroit.

James's strong start gave the Cavs a nine-point lead to start the second quarter. Reserves Daniel Gibson and Mo Williams combined to score 19 points in the second quarter to put them ahead by 16 at halftime.

Pacers 86, Clippers 73

At Indianapolis, Troy Murphy had 18 points and 21 rebounds in the Pacers' first win over Los Angeles Clippers in their home opener.

Danny Granger also scored 18 and Brandon Rush added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers.

Celtics 113, 76ers 110

At Boston, Rajon Rondo scored six points during a key run early in the fourth quarter and made a clutch shot-beating jump shot on the baseline in the closing seconds as Boston overcame poor 3-point shooting to beat Philadelphia.

Complete results: Giants 91, Texas 31; Indiana 31, LA Clippers 73; Boston 113, Philadelphia 110; Houston 98, Cleveland 88; Detroit 88, San Antonio 124; Milwaukee 89, CSU Dallas 120; Boston 113, Los Angeles 110; Golden State 103, Orlando 122; Memphis 119, Denver 128; Minnesota 111, Portland 121; Utah Jazz 89, Sacramento 91; Miami 99, Knicks 99.

NETS Brook Lopez scuffs the ball from...

Iverson set to retire from NBA

PHILADELPHIA—AFTER 14 APPARENT fifteen from NBA teams, Allen Iverson is set to retire, according to one outlet report.

Commentator Stephen A. Smith published a statement on his Website Wednesday attributed to Iverson. It said Iverson plans to retire but also that "I feel strongly that I can still compete at the highest level."

The statement also said Iverson has tremendous love for the game and for desire to play, adding there is "a whole lot left in my tank."

If this is the end for Iverson, he leaves with the 2001 MVP award, four scoring titles and a playoff scoring average of 29.7 points that ranks second only to Michael Jordan. He is the Philadelphia 76ers' all-time leader in points with 23,368, and he is the 2001 NBA finals last scorer to win a championship.

The 13-time All-Star played three games this season with the Memphis Grizzlies before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters. He was waived after the two sides agreed to part ways.

One of the NBA's great scorers, Iverson entered this season with a career average of 27.1 points that ranked fifth all time. ■

Nadal falls; Soderling gains semis

LONDON—RAFAEL NADAL WILL not be carrying home any final memories from his trip to London this year after he became the first player to be knocked out of the ATP World Tour Finals on Saturday.

Five months after limping out of Wimbledon tournament clinching his title due to aching knees, the Spaniard's bone bruise overwhelmed in the opening set once instructed his opponent to be stamped out in a 6-1 7-6 defeat by Russia's Nikolay Davydenko.

While Nadal was left to fill his wounds, Swede Robin Soderling became the first qualifier for the semifinals when he battered world number Juan Monaco 7-6(5), 6-1 for his second major shock of the tournament.

Reuters

ALCANTARA: Last year rounding

Alcantara lone RP Phinma survivor

By Mari Anthony Reyes

A SORE SHOULDER JUST WON'T STOP Francis Casey Alcantara.

The 17-year-old Australian Open junior doubles champion knocked off the challenge of Italian Antonio Marcinelli, 6-3, 6-1, yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the Phinma Invitational junior championship of the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Alcantara, who needed just one hour to come his 18-year-old foe, will next take on Thai Kittipong Chaiwichol, who upset fifth seed Japanese Motoki Kiba, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.

"I'm playing well and I hope this will continue," said Alcantara, who lost just to fully recover from the tough battle in last week's PCA Open where he ended the doubles with Ronald Rikel Rodriguez of Indonesia in the semifinals.

But the rest of the Filipino campaigners fell by the wayside.

Leander Lucero succumbed to sixth seed Rachit Rohilla of Japan, 6-0, 6-4, while the Thai netizen notch for the seat of the road in the girls' singles.

Anne Gracie Pitchimoto, who downed first seed Japanese Japanese qualifier Ami Rubo in the first round, bowed to No. 6 Trang Huynh Phuong Dai of Vietnam, 6-2, 6-4.

Nana Anne Christine, currently the country's top player who bested Japanese Rika Yamaguchi, 6-0, 7-5, Thursday, dropped a 6-4, 6-0 decision to No. 7 Tamaki of China.

Two will battle third seed Li Tzu Stephanie Tan of Singapore who dubbed Belgium's Shamje Lieben, 6-3, 6-1. Trang will face Estrada Yen Dimakuwan of Liechtenstein who romped No. 2 Sonoi Ota of Japan, 7-5, 6-3.

Top seed Fukihara of Japan handily beat Chloe Anne Quinglua, 6-0, 6-1, to advance against No. 4 Imma Tjoljas, 6-3, 6-0, winner over Germany's G. Emperly Hernandez.

Anvaya Cove triathlon sizzles Sunday

By Jessica M. Pava

OVER A HUNDRED RACERS VIE for the crown in the 2nd Anvaya Cove Invitational Triathlon on Sunday at the picturesque Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club in Bataan.

The 1K swim 30K bike-40K run sprint event, which flags off at 6 a.m., will wrap up this year's triathlon season.

Residents and visitors get a chance to be hosted.

Tri-duos are mixed teams who may say about a triple common event "twice" than what a cut down to pairs.

In this regard, I would like to take the opportunity once again to express my gratitude to my fan readers that I have received.

Dear Mr. Minister,

Please let me start off by saying that as a Filipino, I am very proud of what Kobe, to the great fan accomplished for us, it is not a small feat to see seven world titles in seven weight divisions following. Kudos to their and members of Team Pacquiao for all their hard work.

Pacquiao deserves all the accolades that he has been receiving lately.

Heart, Soul, Sports

Jhonny Manrique

Sadly, though, I feel that to also deserve all the bad publicity he has been getting regarding his personal life.

I read your article this morning and I'm glad that someone spoke up and gave Pacquiao a voice towards defending. As a married woman and mother to four children, I personally feel betrayed and ashamed by Pacquiao's actions.

I saw how he left his wife Jinkee at Church as she prays gave his family respect, standing strong one's wife. Maybe Pacquiao felt like he was being singled out of the crowd. He desperately need to console his wife by their wedding.

That again, it is true a "Filipino" trend for all other Pacquiao's fans to do is to stand up for what is still the one he comes home to? Actions truly speak louder than words.

Our world's economy of success is sometimes very distorted. I'm not right in saying that "cash, big money that is a way of erasing complications in one's life." Money is very empowering and intimidating. But that we are to whatever we want because we have it and are diverse in.

Influence of money can be a reality up to Pacquiao. I pray that he learns to read that the situations he makes does not jeopardize his family. It will have the power to build or destroy the lives of those around him, especially his loved ones.

Please keep praying for Filipinos hope and courage to put his fate. Pacquiao has a loving power that Filipinos can unite in their decisions and become successful. I sincerely hope he does not get "distracted" from the great class he has on our ecosystem. Pacquiao should learn to stand his ground.

I am compelled to share with you my thoughts regarding this situation. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Walter Hammons

Dear Jhonny,

I've read numerous write-ups about our legend and he's that I have found that you have the most sincere and honest words for him.

I can't agree that Manny will read your article. I am very sure he will appreciate it through Jhonnie. ...he is very humble and God-fearing.

God bless, and best regards to the family.

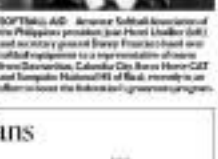
Sincerely,
Ephraim Montecino

PS. Hammons was born in Tagaytay City and settled in Canada in 1986 with his family.]

My sincerest thanks to Boxing Virtuoso and Ephraim Montecino for having allowed me to express pertinent of their opinions. Their thoughts are very enlightening.

Please send comments to comments@philex.com

Let's hear it from Pacquiao fans



SOFTBALL AID: Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines president Jose Henri Lhuillier (left) and ace hurler pose at Ramon Fernandez Grand softball complex prior to a representation of teams from Zamboanga, Columbia City, Buena Hora-CAT and Sampaloc National HS of Rizal, recently in an effort to boost the federation's grassroots program.

Fishing, regatta at Subic Bay this weekend

TWO-SEVERE COMPETITIVE EVENTS ARE in store for watersports enthusiasts this weekend at the Subic Bay Freeport.

The Subic Bay Yacht Club, in cooperation with the Smart Infinity, is hosting this year's SBYC Fun Fishing Tournament tomorrow at the SBYC Causeway area.

Also scheduled is the Subic Bay Yacht Club Regatta on Saturday and Sunday with at least 15 yachts and over 150 sailors from Puerto Galera, Manila and Subic seeing action.

The fishing tournament is expected to draw 150 anglers since the SBYC is considered as one of the largest fish catchments in the region and trawling ground for vast species of tropical marine life.

Winners will receive about P50,000 worth of prizes including gift items from sponsors.

Registration fee is P900. The tournament, also hosted by Chris Sports, Highlife Sunwave Silencer and Regor Magazine, then will set 7 a.m.

The activities, co-organized by Subic Bay Watersports Complex's Sailing and held in cooperation with SBYC commodore Robert "Ricky" Sandoval II, hope to promote Subic as a prime venue for sailing events. George Galarza, Gerd Burow

Race 1—GMA—Game 1a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 2—Game 2a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 3—Game 3a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Race 2—GMA—Game 1a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 2—Game 2a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 3—Game 3a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Race 3—GMA—Game 1a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 2—Game 2a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 3—Game 3a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Race 4—GMA—Game 1a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 2—Game 2a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 3—Game 3a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Race 5—GMA—Game 1a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 2—Game 2a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 3—Game 3a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Race 6—GMA—Game 1a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 2—Game 2a: 10, 08, 03 and 07. Game 3—Game 3a: 10, 08, 03 and 07.

ATLANTIC CITY

GO TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

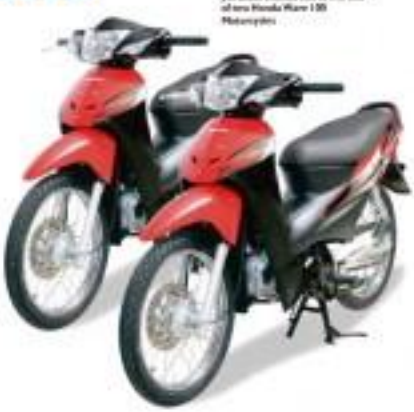
Ace Hardware Opens
at SM City Rosario

The new ACE Hardware store at SM City Rosario is a one-stop shop for the latest home improvement solutions. The 600 square meter store is located at the mall's second level, and like all other ACE Hardware stores worldwide, is a DIY haven for fix-its, clean-ups, and do it yourself projects.

Like all other ACE Hardware stores worldwide, the new store in Rosario has an exciting selection of paints and sundries, electrical and plumbing equipment, hardware materials and power tools, building materials, outdoor equipment, storage solutions, and items for the car and house.

And while shopping at SM City Rosario, you can check out ACE's Holiday Gifts Suggestions promotion, which will be ongoing until November 30. You can get great savings and discounts on selected items, and earn extra rewards points.

Portable Power Source and Air



Every P500 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to win one of two Honda Wave 100 Motorcycles

Moreover, you can join in an exciting raffle promotion sponsored by Firefly. Every P500 single or accumulated purchase until December 31 entitles you to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of two Honda Wave 100 Motorcycles. You can also double your chances of winning with your SM Prestige Card, SM Advantage Card, and BDO Rewards Card.

Shop for Christmas at the new ACE Hardware store at SM City Rosario, and at all other stores located at SM Makati, SM Cubao, and at SM Supermalls nationwide.

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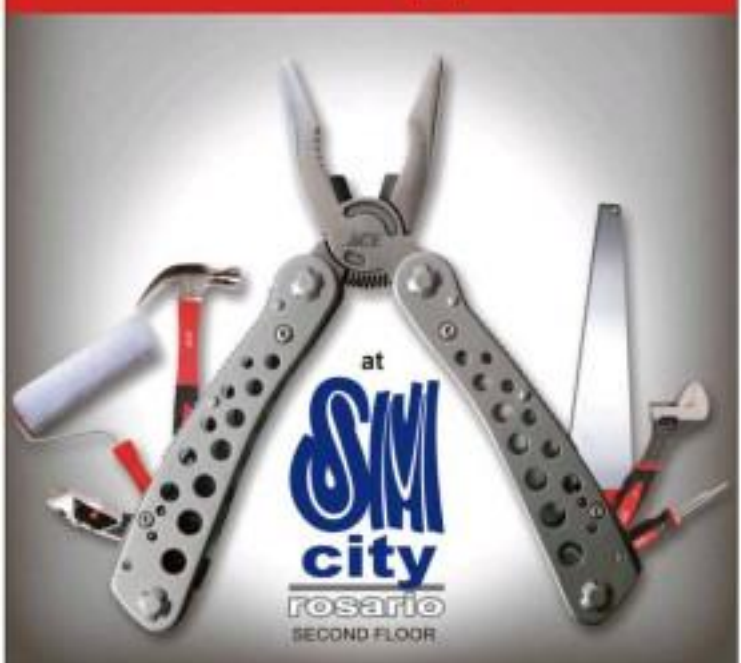
now open



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Every P500 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to raffle coupon.

promo partner FIREFLY

Now Thru December 31 www.acehardware.ph

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Sony CD/MP3 Player with free Type-A Speaker Soup Headset and Sony Soundsuit. Available in selected stores

5-inch cordless phone

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ Sun Life expanding in RP /B6

Edita Raul O. Marcelo • Associate Edita Carrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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Q3 economic output disappoints

Full-year GDP growth may hit only 0.8%, says gov't

By Reena F.W. Domingo

THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY—MEASURED BY THE TOTAL value of its output—remained "fragile" as it grew by only 0.8 percent in the third quarter compared to a more robust pace during the same period last year, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board.

NSCB secretary general Romulo A. Virola yesterday said that while some sectors were showing definitive signs of recovery from the global crisis, the gross domestic product (GDP) from July to September grew slower than the 4.6 percent expansion in the third quarter of last year.

This puts GDP growth in the nine months to September at 0.7 percent.

ECONOMIC B2

Currencies

ADJUSTED PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.800 = $1

¥86.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 26, 2009

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(For stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 0.83% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.83 PERCENT higher Thursday with mining stocks in demand on rising metal prices, dealers said.

The composite index added 25.52 points to 3,088.82, while the all shares index gained 0.46 percent or 6.78 points to 1,3[illegible].70.

A total of 2.76 billion shares worth ₱2.81 billion changed hands, though decliners outnumbered advancers, 98 to 61 with 61 unchanged.

The peso traded at ₱46.714 in the dollar in the morning.

"Investors are taking profit on some stocks, shifting funds or asking orders out to take advantage of the gold rally," Nedia Alcoy of SA Market Securities said.

SHARES, B2

Celebrate the triumph of the human spirit.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SPORTS

RP debt payments ease in Oct.

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT ₱25.71 BILLION in October to service its debts, lower by 22 percent from the ₱33.01 billion paid out in the same month last year, according to data from the Bureau of the Treasury.

The decrease came in the same month that the government raised ₱1 billion in dollar-denominated bonds.

The proceeds from the new, third global offering in a single year, was made available to the government as the budget gap breached the full-year targets of ₱250 billion or hit ₱266.1 billion in October.

Even then, the SOr data showed that in the 10 months to October, payments rose by 8.76 percent from ₱574.71 billion to ₱[illegible]-37 billion.

In October alone, ₱14.13 billion was spent on interest payments, a decrease of 19.7 percent from the ₱17.59 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Also, ₱11.58 billion in principal was paid, falling by 25 percent from ₱15.43 billion in same month of 2008.

Interest and principal payments made to domestic lenders decreased by 30.9 percent to ₱18.84 billion from ₱27.27 billion.

On the other hand, payment made to foreign creditors went up by 39.6 percent to ₱6.87 billion from ₱5.75 billion.

In the 10 months to October, a total of ₱349.41 billion was spent on interest payments, 1.1 percent less than the ₱[illegible].29 billion.

Also, a total of ₱[illegible].31 billion in principal was paid, increasing by 2.3 percent from ₱[illegible].89 billion last year.

Interest and principal payments made to domestic lenders decreased by 6.2 percent to a total of ₱[illegible].84 billion from ₱[illegible].75 billion.

Payments made to foreign creditors increased by 17.6 percent to ₱186.88 billion from ₱[illegible].44 billion.

For 2009, the government's programmed payments for financial obliga-

SP DEBT, B2

ERC rejects Meralco plea on system loss cap

Regulator says power utility had time to curb pilferage

By Amy R. Remo

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has rejected the request of Manila Electric Co. to defer the implementation of a new system loss cap of 9.5 percent starting January 2010 or at least set the cap at 9 percent.

A lower system loss cap will likely translate to a lower typical low charge for electricity consumers, whose distribution utilities are incurring system losses above the current level of 9.5 percent, the ERC noted.

A system loss cap refers to the limit beyond which a utility is no longer allowed to recover from its customers the cost of electricity that was either lost in transmission through power lines or pilfered.

Currently, private distribution utilities like Meralco have a system loss cap of 9.5 percent.

This will be brought down to 8.5 percent starting 2010 as provided under Resolution No. 17, which the ERC issued in January 2009.

Meralco had sought for the deferment of the implementation of the new system loss cap of 8.5 percent, citing its difficulty in meeting the lower cap.

It cited among its reasons the economic slowdown that allegedly affected its sales to industrial customers and the "imported increase in the propensity to pilfer under the current economic environment."

"It is true that the slowing of electricity consumption between the industrial consumers that are connected to high voltage and residential consumers that are connected at low voltage has an effect on the total system loss. However, it should be noted that both the existing and the proposed new caps were set regardless of whether or not the franchisee were to highly outperform," said ERC chairperson Dimmick Cruz-Cristobal in her letter dated Nov. 25 to Meralco.

As for Meralco's concern over rising incidence of pilferage, Cruz said the commission's recent measures have "given Distribution utilities like Meralco the tools to effectively pursue and penalize its client or curb the same."

For this year, Meralco had been aiming to bring down its system loss to 9.1 percent, better than last year's 9.28 percent, said its president Jose P. de Jesus.

Last year's system loss was said to be the lowest Meralco had achieved in 20 years of operation.

Manipulating free elections and destroying democracy

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST WEEK, LEADERS OF THE ADAMSA Agribusiness, the largest farmer-fisherfolk coalition with 44 federations and organizations, announced here the 2010 elections could achieve not just a democracy for the moneyed elite but also for the mind masses.

Of the 45 million Filipinos voting next year, 40 percent or 18 million will come from the upscale urban class. It is with this perspective that Adamsa is pursuing forward its common agri-fishery agenda, to see which candidates would best serve the long neglected needs of farmers and fisherfolk.

Moreover, there is a risk that these votes may not be counted because of a possible deviously designed automated election system.

The Adamsa concerns are consistent with the Yahoo survey results conducted last month, shown in the table below:

Most important issues	%
1. Steady and higher incomes	92
2. Failure of elections	89
3. Charter change	86
4. Unemployed/unexpected give recent officials	78
5. Better infrastructure (roads, bridges, seaports, etc.)	72
6. Wider and electricity for all	69
7. Quality and affordability of education for all	64

Analysis

Given our high unemployment rate and poverty incidence, it is not surprising that "steady and higher incomes" tanks first (92 percent) as the list of important issues. But it may be surprising that "failure of elections" (89 percent) made second at almost double the rate of "quality and affordability of education" (64 percent).

The order of issues may indicate the subjective mindset of the survey respondents: if the governance issues are addressed (failure of elections, Charter change, and need for honest and competent government officials), the desired outcomes will follow (better infrastructure, water and electricity for all, and quality and affordability of education for all).

Election

The best way to ensure good governance is to elect the right people to public office. It is therefore alarming that 89 percent of the respondents are concerned about election failures. They may have reasons to be concerned.

There are two strategic moves that Comelec has the power to undertake that can manipulate the elections.

The first is to program the source code (already the computers will use to count the votes) to ensure that the many votes will be given to the preferred candidates. To guard against this, our law stipulates that this code be made available to "any interested political party or group which may conduct its own review thereof."

Some claim that Comelec fully intends to violate this law by its recent statement that it will make this code available only in February. This is much too late for the interested people to make code verification inputs into the May elections.

Comelec may also say that this source code is proprietary, and that its release cannot be given out at this time. It made an exception for a foreign group called Smartmatic Ltd., and is paying them P74 million for a code to count votes.

In this case, the Adamsa coalition with several information technology and legal experts,

The experts say that Comelec can release this code in a limited number of coordinated people who must sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). This will protect the confidentiality of the property software, because the NDA signatories will face severe sanctions if they violate the confidentiality terms.

At the least, this should be completed by Dec. 1. However, Comelec has done nothing to indicate its imminent delivery release date.

Precinct cheating

The second action to manipulate the election can be done at the precinct level. At the very last minute, a computer technician assigned for each precinct can feed the vote counts in favor of the preferred candidate.

To ensure that the actual vote count is reflected on the computer results, the manual counting of the ballots at the precinct level should be required. This has the advantage of providing an audit trail for monitoring the manual count.

If there is a discrepancy between the manual and computer counts, the computer count should be changed to reflect the manual count and then sent to the national headquarters. This is because it is the manual count that is subjected to verification by several parties, which is rarely lacking in the computer count.

Unfortunately, Comelec does not have the essential procedure of independent verification in its plan.

Conclusion

In May 2010, 18 million voters from the agricultural sector will vote for the candidates whom they believe will address their needs. They do not want their votes stolen further by a computer program with a possible device design to misguide the final count, which will result in bad governance and a short-term term.

If Comelec does not take action on these two issues of a timely source code review and independent verification through a manual count at the precinct level, actions Comelec officials may have to answer to in future and an impartial court of justice for having possibly contributed to the destruction of our democracy.

(The author is chair of Agrimatch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and could be reached for inquiries and suggestions, e-mail: agrimatch.phil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112.)

Lopezes to hold on to Meralco stake

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FIRST PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS Corp. (FPH) chair Oscar Lopez said the electricity distribution business had already lost most of its franchise area to Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), the country's largest power utility.

The Lopez patriarch on Thursday also broke his silence on the rate revision fracas plans to compel Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) to offer to buy out minority shareholders as part of the company's efforts to retain control of Meralco.

"I think it's hard to backtrack. By walking to regain control of Meralco, we're here trying to get out of the distribution business since we sense that's where we're going," Lopez told reporters in Makati City yesterday.

Instead of pursuing matters in the formerly government-regulated distribution business, Lopez said the company would continue to build up its stake in the power generation business.

The Lopez family sold most of its shares in Meralco to MPIC, led by businessmen Manuel V. Pangilinan.

From holding as much as a third of Meralco's outstanding shares in 2006, the Lopez line now owns just 6.3 percent of the power firm.

However, the Lopez family, through holding firm FPH, owns a substantial stake in First Gen Corp., the Philippines' largest producer of renewable geothermal energy.

Meanwhile, the Lopez patriarch said the dysfunctional Settlement Systems (GMS) had no business meddling in the bank between MPIC and respondents Dennis Uy and Jose Miguel Cojuangco, over control of Meralco.

"The GMS has no business to do except to help the other 66 less win our remaining stake in Meralco, which is not for sale," Lopez said.

GMS earlier this month said MPIC for slashing around a tender offer, which under the law must be done once a party gains a substantial stake in listed firms.

MPIC owns Hydro Electric Power a 20-percent stake in Meralco from the Lopezes and acquired more shares from the public to bring the block's direct stake in the power firm to under 20 percent.

Likewise, in a deal now forged on a loan with the Lopez group entities this month, MPIC gained another 0.7 percent stake in Meralco. Under the law, any person that acquires a 15-percent stake in a listed firm within one year must offer to buy out minority shareholders at the same price as the last transaction.

But since the shares sold did not officially change hands, MPIC was not to avoid the penny tender offer.

The deal caused the ire of GMS president Napoleon Garcia, who said the deal was meant to short-change minority shareholders in Meralco by giving control the tender offer rule.

GMS currently owns a 4-percent stake in Meralco, the GMS of Retail Investors.

GMS previously held a 25-percent stake in the power firm, but sold this to the Cojuangco-led San Miguel Corp. San Miguel president Ramon Ang earlier said the company together with its allies, controls about 46 percent of the power firm.

San Miguel planned to use Meralco's distribution infrastructure of power lines as a launch pad for its foray into the country's highly competitive telecommunications industry.

Q3 economic output ...

From page B1

NSCB data showed.

GDP refers to the total value of products and services produced and paid for within an economic territory in a given period.

The development pushed down yields on the country's bonds yesterday as analysts anticipated the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to keep interest rates low until June 2010.

"It is quite clear the central bank has a growth bias and this number would definitely reinforce that bias," said Eduardo Bonzon-Bien, economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) Philippines. "There would stay on hold at least for two to three quarters in my view."

The central bank has held the key overnight borrowing rate at a record low of 4 percent since July and analysts had previously said that it is likely to hike rates only in the second quarter of 2010.

But the latest growth data, said the government's acknowledgement that it could only reach the low end of the full-year GDP growth target of 0.8 to 1.8 percent should keep rates on hold for a longer period.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that the data was unexpected that the accommodative policy could be maintained.

"Given the within-target range outlook for inflation for 2009 and 2010, the central bank can afford to maintain its current accommodative stance for some time," he said in a text message to reporters.

RBS's Yards said the downgrowth was driven by contributions from the services of trade, finance, mining and quarrying, private services and personal services.

Respectively, these sectors grew by 0.9 percent, 2.5 percent, 0.3 percent and 0.3 percent.

In terms of the three major sectors of the economy, services grew the strongest pace, with a growth rate of 4 percent while agriculture, fisheries and forestry grew by a negative 0.6 percent.

On the other hand, industry fell by 4.6 percent, the worst performance since the fourth quarter of 1998.

Yards said that while these figures were modest, they indicate a continuously improving growth trend as the full financial crisis crunch last year.

"On the demand side, growth came mainly from consumption by both households and government and from contributions from which have mildly reversed from the drag in the first quarter," Yards said. With a report from Reuters

RP debt payments ...

From page B1

loans stands at P688.5 billion as at 9.7 percent higher than the actual payment of P13.2 billion last year.

Of this year's debt servicing budget, P388.8 billion represent principal payments while P299.7 billion is meant for interest expenses.

This year's debt servicing program accounts for 8.7 percent of GDP compared to last year's 6.2 percent.

In 2009, the government aimed at bringing down the debt-to-GDP ratio to 50.7 percent but was able able to reach 56.3 percent as it hit a record high of 79.2 percent in 2004.

Reported by Dennis Jay Santos with reports from Reuters

Shares ...

From page B1

Reporting by Jason Szep and Jeremy Gaunt

Gold was trading at record levels above $1,200 an ounce on Thursday as the greenback continued to decline.

Traders expect the low dollar to rise to a narrow 1,050-3,200 point band in the near term but warned that investors' new risk profile today could not long survive.

The market is closed Monday for a public holiday and trading resumes Tuesday. AFP

ANZ completes acquisition of RBS in Philippines

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) today announced the completion of its acquisition of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc (RBS) business in the Philippines.

The Philippines is the first of six markets in transition to ANZ ownership after the acquisition of selected RBS businesses in Asia was announced on 4 August. ANZ is acquiring the RBS retail, wealth and commercial businesses in Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong, and the institutional businesses in Taiwan, the Philippines and Vietnam for approximately US$660 million.

ANZ Chief Executive Officer Asia Pacific, Europe and Americas Alex Thursby said: "The RBS acquisition is an important step in our super regional strategy and the completion in the Philippines shows our plans to integrate the businesses are on track.

"Since the acquisition was announced, we've been working with local authorities to obtain the necessary regulatory approvals and executing our integration plans so that we can bring customers and staff across to ANZ with minimal disruption."

"The completion of the acquisition in the Philippines strengthens our corporate and institutional business at a time when the growth outlook in the region is very positive," Mr Thursby said.

ANZ expects to complete the acquisition in Vietnam before the end of 2009 and in the remaining markets by mid-2010.

ANZ has re-branded the RBS Philippines business to ANZ's new global brand and integrated it into ANZ's existing Manila branch. The recently-launched ANZ brand represents ANZ as a bank that understands its customers' needs (people-shaped) and provides a straightforward and simple banking experience for customers (uncomplicated.)

Former RBS clients have been transferred to ANZ in the Philippines and will continue to access existing loan facilities, investments and deposits.

ANZ Philippines CEO Panadda Manadechakul said: "We welcome our new clients and staff who join us from RBS and we look forward to working together on the opportunities in this market and connecting them across our network in Asia Pacific, Australia and New Zealand."

ANZ Philippines was established in 1990 and offers full service corporate banking, trade finance and treasury services. It is the only Australian bank with a branch in the country and ANZ also holds a 40 per cent stake in Metrobank Card Corporation, one of the leading credit card issuers in the Philippines.

Shell sells Guam, Saipan, Palau units to Delgados

By Amy R. Borja

ROYAL DUTCH SHELL YESTERDAY said it would sell its downstream marketing businesses in the North Pacific Islands to JPME Holdings LLC, a company fully owned by the Delgado family.

The North Pacific Islands cover Guam, Saipan and Palau.

The deal, which is subject to regulatory approvals, came on the heels of Shell's review of its downstream marketing businesses in the North Pacific and to reassess units the company's strategy to concentrate its global downstream portfolio.

"The decision by Shell to move to a distributor model supports its portfolio focus drive and follows a number of similar deals in other countries," Shell said in a statement.

Shell said the agreement it had signed with JPME covered the sale of its retail, commercial and aviation businesses.

Royal Dutch Shell is currently the world's largest single brand oil fuels retailer with some 44,000 service stations worldwide, and operations in some 90 countries and territories.

The purchase of Shell's downstream marketing business in the North Pacific adds to the Delgado family's portfolio of investments in the region, Shell said.

Upon the completion of the transaction, the family would have invested approximately $200 million in the region from the time it acquired Mobil Bard and waterline assets in 2000.

Phil Holdings is a subsidiary of Prosperous Investments Ltd., a member of the Delgado group of companies that includes Citadel Holdings in the Philippines.

SMDC unveils fourth QC project

TYCOON SHERWIN'S RESIDENTIAL PROP... [illegible] city sets SM Development Corp. [illegible] unveiled its fourth condominium project in [illegible] City—the Princeton Residence—beside the Gilmore station of Light Rail Transit 2 as [illegible].

It is among about P4.6 billion from a stock rights offering to finance its expansion [illegible] Doris G. Bersabe

The project will sit on 2,401 square meters of land, with the condominium building occupying 1,354 sq.m. It will have 43 floors, offering one- and two-bedroom units. It will offer 1,099 units for sale.

SMDC president Hagen Cabauing said in a statement: "The Princeton Residence is ideally located as a school zone along Aurora Boulevard. As with our other projects, the Princeton Residences offer livable spaces in a prime location, but at affordable prices."

The firm offers residential projects of SMDC in Quezon City and Manila. Residences in the heart of the City are Avida Towers Centera, Avida Towers Intima, Avida Towers Vita, Avida Towers Asten, Avida Towers Sola, Avida Towers Stamford, Avida Towers Cloverleaf, Avida Towers Oasis, Avida Towers Tuscany, Avida Towers Davao, Avida Towers Legazpi, Avida Towers Cebu, Avida Towers Iloilo, Avida Towers Centera, Avida Towers Intima, Avida Towers Vita, Avida Towers Asten, Avida Towers Sola, Avida Towers Stamford, Avida Towers Cloverleaf, Avida Towers Oasis, Avida Towers Tuscany, Avida Towers Davao, Avida Towers Legazpi, Avida Towers Cebu, Avida Towers Iloilo.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Unit Value as of [illegible]	Last Week Unit Value as of [illegible]
Asian Fund - Peso	[illegible]	[illegible]
Managed Fund - Peso	[illegible]	[illegible]
Growth Fund - Peso	[illegible]	[illegible]
Equity Fund - Peso	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asian Fund - US Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]
Managed Fund - US Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]
Secured Return Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]
Secured Return Fund II	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bond Fund - Peso	[illegible]	[illegible]
Money Market Fund - Peso	[illegible]	[illegible]
Money Market Fund - US Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]

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URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

THE GENERICS PHARMACY NOW IN MALLS

Aiming [illegible] to make drugstore medicine-hardly accessible to consumers, The Generics Pharmacy (TGP), the country's first growing chain of drugstores selling generic medicines, is now in malls. TGP now has 20 outlets in Metro Manila and 16 branches in the shopping malls and centers in the provinces. The mall-based retail stores are [illegible] for Robinsons, Cash and Carry Makati stores in [illegible] and Greenhills Mall, Ever Commonwealth, Glorietta, Trade Mall, Sta. Lucia, Eastwood, Main Farmers Plaza Cubao, Shoemania 2000, LCC Mall, Riverside Cebu, Robinsons Tacloban, SMDC Calamba, SM Calamba/Lala, among others. "We want our more than 200 imported and locally produced generic medicines for both common and serious ailments, antibiotics, vitamins, and food supplements available to the public while they are in the shopping centers," said TGP president Benjamin Lopez. Backed by more than 30 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry, TGP has attributed its growth and brand equity to its efficient production sourcing from respectable local and international manufacturers. Targeting a total of 500 stores by yearend, TGP offers low-priced equivalent medicines, like Amoxicillin, an antibiotic drug, for only P1.00 per tablet against the leading brand at P10.75. On top of the lower prices, the drugstore chain also offers 20% outright discount to senior citizens, [illegible] and products free prices in its selected outlets. For inquiries, call 634-2717, 634-0588, 110-6044 to 45, e-mail comments@thegenericspharmacy.com or visit www.thegenericspharmacy.com

Singapore Airlines' US$158 ALL-IN Christmas Special to Singapore

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Lilian Arvin Espinosa

IFC, BPI extend cooperation to promote sustainable energy investments

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS will be working with IFC for two more years to promote investments on sustainable energy projects after BPI completed last June 30 an initial two years of pioneering work on developing this new market sector.

The extension of their cooperation agreement on Sustainable Energy Finance (SEF) was signed last June 5 by BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III and IFC resident representative Jesse G. Ang at the BPI head office in Makati City. The ceremonial signing was attended by key officers of the bank and was highlighted by a presentation on the Philippine renewable energy potential by Assistant Secretary Mario Marasigan from the Department of Energy.

"Our long-term goal is to see BPI developing innovations in the energy market and adding value to financially viable client projects, and at the same time bringing about positive social and environmental impacts," Montinola said.

With IFC advisory support, BPI has so far granted P1.2 billion ($25 million) worth of loans and has potential projects in various stages amounting to $136 billion. Projects include expanding a biogas facility in a 15,000-head piggery in Bulacan, retrofitting a cogeneration facility in Capiz on Oct. 30, and constructing a coco husk post-harvest facility in Cagayan Valley.

The current phase of SEF is funded by the Global Environment Facility and covers advisory services to financial institutions, training for service and technology providers, engaging regulatory agencies, and raising market awareness. "Through the SEF program, IFC would like to show that financing sustainable energy projects can be good business while at the same time helping to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change," said Ang.

BPI has also begun exploring the energy service companies, vendors and suppliers as a new market and business line. "We have laid the groundwork for that by meeting one with our local office building, where we commissioned an energy service company to do an investment-grade audit, and undertake the retrofit of the centralized chillers," said Montinola.

With the passage of the Renewable Energy Act and approval of its implementing rules, BPI is supporting its new owners' interest in relation to renewable energy in the coming months. BPI is also in advanced negotiations with IFC on a risk-sharing agreement that is soon to improve the risk profile of BPI's energy loans and leases.

"The relationship with IFC has been very cooperative, warm, reciprocal and productive. Our SEF team has fostered many lessons from the IFC team. As we disseminate these lessons to the marketing groups, we will be able to pursue this SEF market, which is perceived by many as high risk, with greater confidence," said Montinola.

PAG-IBIG'S SPECIAL LENDING WINDOW FOR OFWS

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig Fund) is exploring the opening of a special savings and lending facility to answer Filipinos' overwhelming response to Pag-ibig OFW Jacinto A. Paluzzo assured members during the recent signing of a memorandum of agreement among the OWWA, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco), and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The said MOA will formalize the establishment of a Pag-ibig service desk in Taiwan. Teresa Lubiano (secretary Marianito D. Roque, posted here) and Meco chair and DOLE Undersec. L. Mandoza represented the labor sector during the ceremonies.

GE launches $250 million Healthymagination Fund

GE ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION of the "GE Healthymagination Fund", a new venture fund that will make investments in highly promising healthcare technology companies. The fund will invest in companies globally that have innovative diagnostic, IT, and life sciences technologies aligned with the strategic objectives of GE's healthcare solutions initiative. The fund will also support healthcare companies developing innovative and unique business models and services.

The formation of the fund is part of GE's $6 billion Healthymagination initiative, a global commitment to address better healthcare to assist people of low or cost. The fund will target three broad areas for investment: Broad-based diagnostics, including imaging, home health, patient monitoring, molecular diagnostics, pathology, novel imaging agents and other molecular-based diagnostics; Healthcare Information Technology, including electronic medical records, clinical information systems, healthcare information exchanges and value-added data services and life sciences, including tools for research and development in biopharmaceuticals and stem cells, and technologies for manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and vaccines.

The fund will draw on capabilities from across GE Healthcare, GE Capital and GE Global Research, and will have a global footprint.

"The creation of the GE Healthymagination Fund reaffirms our commitment to innovative ways to help better health in more people," GE chairman and CEO Jeffrey Immelt said. "As GE works on solutions to health, cost's biggest challenges, it is critical to important that we support the development of companies with promising technologies or business models that can aligned with our strategy and have the potential to shape the future of healthcare. This includes smarter processes and technologies that increase the intensive access to healthcare, reduce the cost of delivery and improve quality. The Healthymagination Fund gives us an opportunity to work with emerging companies to support their development, as well as provide them access to our technology base and our global presence."

For further information about the fund, visit www.healthymagination.com.

ADVANTI RACING WHEELS AT 2009 MANILA AUTO SALON

Laurimar Phil Marketing Inc., the official distributor in the country of Advanti Racing Wheels, the official supplier of Southern Type Rocket 1-4 racing bikes, is among the participants of the 2009 Manila Auto Salon, happening this Nov. 25-29, at SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. The 2009 Manila Auto Salon is organized by Event Hypermedia – the Centerpiece Show, the Speed Trials, Demo, and Test Mania Exclusives and Technology Demo. MAS 2009 is a conceptualized and produced by the Philippines leading motoring events organizer – TradeShow International Inc. (the team behind Toma Speed Demo). Shown during the contract signing are (from left): Marlon Ortiz, vice president of TradeShow International Inc.; and Jana Gloria, assistant marketing manager of Laurimar Philippine Marketing. The official Philippine distributor of Advanti Racing Wheels, Racing Racing Wheels, and Cervo Tires.

NURTURING FILIPINOS TO GOOD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

National Nutrition Council (NNC) held the National Convention of Nutrition Action Officers and Barangay Nutrition Program Coordinators at the PMA Convention Hall in Mall of Asia, Pasay City. The highlight of the convention was the launching of the "Iron Nutrition, Iron Health" campaign that aims to unite all Filipinos in solving the country's nutritional problems. The movement recognizes that no one kind can make a difference in solving hunger and malnutrition. Shown (from left) during the launching of the "Iron Nutrition, Iron Health" movement are Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario T. Rosero, CESO II, Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council; Jesse Fermanian M. Reyes, Undersecretary for Operations of the Department of Agriculture; and Prospero Pichay Jr., Secretary of Health. Also at the National Nutrition Council's Governing Board and Lead of the Anti-Hunger Task Force.

ProductFILES

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Representatives from pioneer EFC comes Magic Thins, a delicious crispy and thin confectionery option to cure both chipsaholics and everyday cravers. Magic Thins provides a good mood chewing-on any time of day. Enjoy the distinctive crunchiness and rich flavors while being a healthy way around. Always made in-house in just-hygienic and with your favorite. Starting with the Klassic Black Magic Thins Chocolate Wheat others can taste both scrumptious mouth-watering rich chocolate goodness that all chocolate lovers can enjoy without feeling guilty because the crackers are infused with wheat! For more info please contact Magic Thins chocolate flavor will keep hungry individuals with curious palates happily munching away. Please also available in chocolate flavors. Now available in your nearest supermarkets, convenience stores, and sari-sari stores nationwide.

PIRATES BEWARE!

The public is hereby WARNED to refrain from buying, selling or dealing in counterfeit SANUK brand footwear products.

sanuk

The Exclusive Distributor of Sanuk brand footwear in the Philippines is PHILGEAR INTERNATIONAL, INC. (PGI). The public is, therefore, advised to buy Sanuk brand footwear products from the authorized stores and outlets of PGI.

Parties/entities caught ILLEGALLY SELLING, BUYING OR DEALING IN Sanuk brand footwear shall be held criminally and civilly liable in accordance with R.A. No. 8293, otherwise known as Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, the Revised Penal Code, and under relevant laws, rules and regulations.

Anyone having knowledge or information of the sale and/or distribution of Sanuk footwear is requested to report the matter to the undersigned.

ROGUE & BUTUYAN LAW OFFICES
Counsel for Sanuk USA
1004 Antel Corporate Center
121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village
1227 Makati City
Tel. 8674445/ Fax 8873603

CFHC CHAIR RENEWS SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SUBSIDIARY

Chinese and Financial Holdings Co Ltd chair Dr. Jeffrey L.S. Koo recently visited Chinatrust and Philippines to express his continued support for the local subsidiary and to recognize the bank's efforts in the past year. Shown with the leadership of its new president and CEO Mark Chen, Koo (second from left) and (from left) Chinatrust chairman and executive vice president Chen Kuo-Hui, Chinatrust president and CEO Chen Shun-Chi, Chinatrust director and executive vice president Chen Kuo-Chung

Celebrity names

Hand / Bulletin

MINUS THE STUNNING victory over Miguel Cotto, Manny Pacquiao has become the latest sought after product endorser in the country today.

The advertisements that bear his name and photo are everywhere. With his recent dispute final, expect to see or hear more of him these coming days.

Pacquiao has by become that politicians are trying all ways to get him on their side. He endorses the pick on which party he sees he can double his job-like congressional days in his province.

And don't be surprised if some sporty basketball athletes are named after the People's Champ, or Pinoy, his wife.

Before you start rolling your eyes in disbelief about this possibility let me tell you that this is not an only-in-the-Philippines case. It is a worldwide phenomenon, developed sometime in the 60s.

The reason often given to justify this practice is to "invite" good luck. Who knows, the fame and fortune of the celebrity might be transferred to the newborn.

If resistance affirmation of positive thoughts can work wonders on a person's attitude toward life, can permanent name association not do the same thing?

Trade name

Cashing in on the names of national, top or famous personalities for business purposes is common practice.

Name recall is belated this exercise, all the good things associated with that person readily enter the subconscious of the his or her name is mentioned or read.

In the hands of a skillful writer, the virtues of that popular figure can be subliminally "transferred" to the product or service that is being advertised under his or her name.

Conversely, if a name has achieved a certain degree of notoriety it will, for obvious reasons, be avoided like a plague.

Members, for example, the names "Sylvia," "Sobrepeña" and "Ponce," and the first thing that often comes to mind is either unhealthy or predictable.

The battle to advantage—in terms of recall and positive association—of celebrity names accounts for their since-theorized use by people who want to jumpstart their business without going through the usual birth pains.

Under existing rules, there is no law with on the use of a person's name in corporate names or titles.

In a 2008 circular the Securities and Exchange Commission stated that "the full name or surname of a person may be used in a corporate or partnership name if he or she is a stockholder, member, or partner of the said entity and has consented in such manner."

Estate proceedings

This allowance is based on the principle that the stockholder's or member's name is personal property that can be "lent" for the corporation for identification purposes.

However, if a person's name that appears in the corporate title does not correspond to any of its stockholders or members, the person applying for registration may be required by the SEC to explain the use of the name.

Failure of the registrant to prove his rights to use that name or name, in turn, or objects to such use, could adversely affect the application for registration.

Even the use of initials in the corporate name for the subject company for purposes of transparency and to avoid possible confusion by the public, the meaning of the initials may be reflected spelled out in the Articles of Incorporation.

And no one of the name belongs to a deceased person, whether or not he is a relative of any of the stockholders or members, the inclusion of the name in the corporate title will require the consent of the deceased's estate.

The use of the word "estate" is significant.

The consent should be given by the administrator or executor of the estate appointed by the court or the majority of the surviving heirs (in the case of extrajudicial settlement of the estate) of the deceased.

Objections

The requirement stems from the experience in the past of families of some prominent personalities that, after their passing or even early passed away, fought among themselves over their inheritance.

If the name of the deceased has strong drawing power in the market or carries considerable business prestige, the heirs may not allow its use as part of a corporate title. And if they do, only under certain conditions.

The requiring the consent is to come from the name's duly authorized representative, the possibility of the legality of such use being questioned later is minimized.

The fact, however, that a corporation's bearing a personal name has been appraised does not prevent an interested (party) to question the use of such name.

A corporate name may be changed, or if previously allowed, ordered withdrawn if it is "misleading, deceptive, confusingly similar to a registered name, or contrary to public morals, good order or public policy."

The complaining party can file a complaint for the deletion or discontinuance of the use of such name.

If the complaint is proven to be meritorious, the disputed corporate name will have to be changed.

What's in a corporate name? Hopefully, especially if it has a certain quality that can make advertisers make a beeline to its owner to get permission to use it to promote their products.

(For feedback, please write to <cpdalmeda@inquirer.com.ph>.)

Compel MVP group to make a tender offer, SEC urged

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to compel the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan to make a tender offer to other shareholders of Manila Electric Co., in the aftermath of the latter's deal to acquire additional shares from the Lopez family at P568 per share.

In a petition filed with the SEC dated Nov. 25, the GSIS, through its chief legal counsel Estrella Dumpit, urged regulators to force the Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific Investments Corp. to extend to other minority shareholders the same deal handed with the Lopezes' First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC).

"Denying the law with their fraudulent machinations to avoid the mandatory tender offer has the effect of eroding investor confidence in our market," Dumpit said.

"Since MPIC/First Philippine Holdings Corp.'s group already has 24.7 percent shares, the acquisition of an additional 6.7 percent or 13.4 percent will make their combined holdings exceed 35 percent," the GSIS said.

It noted that the additional acquisition by the Pangilinan group within the 12-month period had breached the 35-percent equity share limit under Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code and its amended implementing rules and regulations.

The GSIS, which owns 1 percent of Meralco, pointed out to corporate regulators that the tender offer rule had been put in place to protect minority shareholders against any scheme that would dilute the share value of their investments.

The tender offer requirement seeks to give the minority shareholders the chance to sell their company under reasonable terms, giving them the opportunity to sell their shares at the same price as those of the majority shareholders.

"Securities trading being vested with public interest must be subject to stringent regulations consistently and fairly implemented," the GSIS said in the petition. "The scheme employed by MPIC and FPHC is not only contrary to law but also prejudicial and runs counter to the interest of the public."

The GSIS argued that the tender offer option and standstill agreements between MPIC and FPHC were designed to conceal the true nature of the transaction—which it noted was the purchase by MPIC of FPHC's Meralco shares.

On Nov. 16, MPIC matched a buyout offer made by Henry Sy Jr. for the Lopezes' 13.4-percent stake in Meralco at P568 per share.

Under the recently executed deal, MPIC paid a loan worth P113. 5 billion to the Lopezes payable on March 31, 2010 and secured by a pledge of 300M million common shares of Meralco owned by First Holdings Utilities Corp. and 330.86 million common shares of First Gen Corp., owned by SGI Cayman.

Globe Telecom obtains ₱3-B loan from UBP

By Paolo S. Montecillo

AYALA-LED GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS secured a ₱3-billion loan from a local bank, which the company plans to use to finance expansion and other expenses in 2010.

It is disclosed to the local exchange on Thursday, Globe said it had signed a ₱3-billion term loan facility with Philippine Bank of the Philippines on Nov. 26.

"The proceeds of the facility will be used to finance the company's capital expenditures and general corporate requirements," the company said in its disclosure.

The country's second largest telecom company said it would spend $500 million next year, almost the same level as its capital expenditure this year.

For the nine month that ended in September, Globe already spent about $400 million for its everyday operations.

Globe is owned by local conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.

At the end of the third quarter, the company's profit grew by 12 percent to ₱9.9 billion due to the consistent returns from its traditional voice and text messaging services (SMS) offerings and the strong growth from its broadband internet services.

The company has 25 million subscribers, trailing behind Smart Communications Inc., which has about 39 million subscribers.

Globe shares closed 60 by P58 on Thursday to close at P968.

BHI increasing capital to ₱800M

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PAMLEGUY BOLOGNINO HOLDings Inc. is beefing up its capital to expand its installmating efforts for tourism-oriented projects.

The company is focusing particularly on the expansion of its Today's Hotel and Resort chain.

BHI disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange a plan to jack up its authorized capital stock to ₱800 million from ₱200-million. The new capital base will be divided into eight billion shares with a par value of P0.10 per share.

The PSE yesterday implemented a one-hour trading halt on BHI shares. Its share price surged by 35 percent to close at P0.135 after the trading halt was lifted. It was the biggest gainer yesterday on the local bourse.

The P600-million proposed capital stock will be subscribed and paid in full by JP Guidelines.

BHI said the land would house the 40-passenger Bell Fricky's Resort.

The company earlier sold out of the information technology business to boost its hotel and resort developments. It is opening a new Fiesta Resort in Puerto Galera before Christmas this year. The first Fiesta Resort is in Boracay.

BHI's hotel management unit handling Fiesta Resort in Boracay will also manage the Philippine Airport Hotel. BHI told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

BHI unloaded 100 percent of investment in IT players Alliance Technologies Corp. and Avitron Systems Inc., which are into the telecommunications equipment business for undisclosed amounts.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of November 27, 2009

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Bank Agreement	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	0.00000	0.00000	46.8230
Japan	yen	0.00000	0.00000	0.5264
United Kingdom	pound	0.00000	0.00000	75.2540
Hong Kong	dollar	0.00000	0.00000	6.0461
Switzerland	franc	0.00000	0.00000	45.2910
Canada	dollar	0.00000	0.00000	44.7000
Singapore	dollar	0.00000	0.00000	33.4000
Australia	dollar	0.00000	0.00000	43.4000
Malaysia	ringgit	0.00000	0.00000	13.4000
Kuwait	dinar	0.00000	0.00000	154.0000
Saudi Arabia	riyal	0.00000	0.00000	12.4000
United Arab Emirates	dirham	0.00000	0.00000	12.8000
Indonesia	rupiah	0.00000	0.00000	0.0050
Thailand	baht	0.00000	0.00000	1.3000
Euro	zone	0.00000	0.00000	67.1000
China	yuan	0.00000	0.00000	6.8000
Taiwan	dollar	0.00000	0.00000	1.4000
Korea	won	0.00000	0.00000	0.0300
Vietnam	dong	0.00000	0.00000	0.0025
India	rupee	0.00000	0.00000	1.0000
Netherlands	guilder	0.00000	0.00000	30.0000
Belgium	franc	0.00000	0.00000	1.6000
Sweden	krona	0.00000	0.00000	6.5000
Denmark	krone	0.00000	0.00000	8.9000
Norway	krone	0.00000	0.00000	7.8000

BUSINESS

Sun Life expanding in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

CANADA-BASED INSURANCE GIANT Sun Life Financial is expanding its operations in the Philippines by hiring at least 1,000 more agents in the next two to three years and investing about P2 billion in a new corporate office in Fort Bonifacio.

Sun Life also plans to put up a business process outsourcing hub in the country to diversify existing channels into more operations in Asia.

In a briefing yesterday, Sun Life Financial Philippines (SLFP) chief executive officer Rizi Monteclaro also reported the return of investor confidence in protection and wealth management products, as indicated by higher sales of its investment and mutual funds in the third quarter compared to previous quarters.

"It's been a challenging year," Monteclaro said, noting that January to September insurance sales were still down by 7 percent to P379.8 million from a year ago. However, she said the downturn had bottomed out in the second quarter.

She said SLFP's third quarter sales of traditional insurance products grew by 46 percent to P147.7 million from second-quarter level, while sales of variable and linked (VUL) products, a hybrid between insurance and mutual funds, also rose by 90 percent to P232.1 million during the same period.

"We're expecting November to be our best month for this year," she said.

Quarter-on-quarter net sales of mutual funds grew by 222 percent to P350.16 million.

Index of investment as well as other financial products "have skyrocketed in the previous quarters due to the US-epicentered financial crisis and the spillover effect caused by the problem to the personal sector."

Monteclaro is even more upbeat on prospects for next year, expecting life insurance sales to grow by 19-20 percent and for mutual fund sales to triple from this year.

While average industry-wide insurance growth was only more than 4 percent over the last five years, Monteclaro said there was much room for growth given the low penetration rate, which is now 1.5 percent in life insurance.

Industry estimates showed penetration rate at only 11.15 percent of the population.

Monteclaro said the following could boost the insurance business in the years ahead: the passage of the Personal Equity Retirement Act, lowering of taxes chipped on premiums from 5 percent, and new regulations allowing thrift banks to offer simple insurance products.

IBM to open first RP 'innovation center'

By Abigail L. Ho

COMPUTING GIANT IBM IS OPENing its first "innovation center" in the Philippines next week, in a bid to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) better harness the power of technology for their products and to drive operations.

IBM Philippines chief technologist Lope Dee said the facility, located on the ground floor of the IBM building in the University of the Philippines Ayala Land Technohub, sought to provide SMBs a venue to test their applications on various platforms and on different scales.

He said it was usually difficult for SMBs to see if their applications would work on different platforms—for example, Windows, Unix or Linux—or considering such tests can drain resources and investments in both hardware and software.

"But it's easy for IBM to enable that since our products cover all platforms. Without having to make them own investments, SMBs can test their applications on different platforms through the Innovation Center," he said in an interview yesterday.

He said the IBM Innovation Center would also give SMBs a chance to see how their applications would function when rolled out to different numbers of users—from the handful to the thousands.

The Innovation Center will also be open to members of the academe.

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As the "Ber" season nears and shoppers rush to the malls for their last minute gift shopping, make sure you have your Metrobank Credit Card in hand. Then, let Red Ribbon take care of yourself a sweet Christmas treat.

Promo is open to all Metrobank Credit Cardholders. Redemption period is from October 15, 2009 to March 15, 2010. Missing out on the treats? Apply for a Metrobank Credit Card at any Metrobank branch or by calling (02) 8-700-700 or 1-800-1-888-5775 (Domestic Toll-Free).

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2009 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B7
BUSINESS Friday

When counterfeit goods cause real damage

THE REAL pair of Dessy Sanuk

Primer Group on warpath vs fake Sanuk

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE ORIGINAL IS ALWAYS THE BEST BUT unfortunately, not everyone is willing to pay the price for an original.

Take Sanuk, that brand of shoes/sandals from California that prides itself in offering buyers of all ages the ultimate in comfort and style through its patented Sidewalk Surfer.

A pair of original Sanuk shoes cost around P3,000, compared to just P500 for the fake Sanuk or so-called factory overrun from China that are flooding the local markets, with Christmas less than a month away and holiday shopping starting in earnest.

Enter: NBI

Given such a significant price difference, it is not surprising that, like many Filipinos—especially those who are not familiar with the brand—have opted to buy the fake ones they look almost like the original, anyway, at least for some of them.

The Primer Group of companies, the exclusive distributor of Sanuk in the Philippines, is not about to take this problem sitting down.

Sanuk brand manager Vonglit Chan says Primer has already enlisted the help of the National Bureau of Investigation to enforce its rights over the brand, which it has been distributing in the Philippines since 2007, and remove the fake Sanuk items from the market.

Chan says that, based on the group's information, fake Sanuk items started penetrating the local market in the third quarter of this year.

Divisoria

The counterfeits carry the same logo, tags and even paper bags, which were locally designed and produced.

The fakes are being sold at 168 Mall and Tabalon in Divisoria. But they started at Greenhills Shopping Center, Ever (Rapid Duty Free), Angeles, Pampanga, and have even reached as far as Davao, Butuan, and Cagayan de Oro.

"From what we have seen, there are some designs that are similar. But other fakes come in totally different styles. A buyer can be deceived into thinking that they are really buying a Sanuk, but they're not, because the feel and comfort are totally different," says Chan.

Disaster

She says this spells disaster for Primer because buyers may think that even the real Sanuk shoes are not comfortable as they claim to be.

"This will eventually hurt the brand's image and consequently dampen sales, the sales.

Primer has already seen it happen with Hurley's, a line of bags also from the United States that it distributes in the Philippines.

ALSO, look for the counterfeit, the color

WHEN COUNTERFEIT, B2-3

FAKE Sanuk stretches labor says.

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More US shoppers planning Black Friday visits

SAN FRANCISCO—UP TO 134 million US consumers may shop for holiday gifts the Thanksgiving weekend, although most will check the bargains before embarking, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

The poll by the National Retail Federation on shopping plans for the three days after the Thanksgiving (See holiday—Black Friday, Saturday and Sunday—found 57 million consumers definitely planning to hit the stores.

Another 77 million said that before heading out, they would make sure retailers were offering big enough discounts.

That is up from last year's survey in advance of Black Friday, when 99 million consumers said they planned to shop and an additional 79 said they might if promotions were tempting. Holiday sales in 2008 turned out to be the worst in nearly four decades in the midst of a global financial meltdown crisis.

The long weekend after Thanksgiving, considered the kickoff to holiday shopping, is expected to draw bargain hungry consumers who have cut back on their spending over the past year amid rising unemployment, curtailed credit and a weak economy.

Industry experts say the three-day weekend could draw a strong turnout, but many will expect frugal sales for the entire holiday season leading up to Christmas.

Also on Tuesday, mediators from conciliator said it expects US holiday e-commerce spending to rise 5 percent, calling "a positive start" to the season. Online spending fell 3 percent in the year-ago period. Comscore attributed the projected gains not to resurgence in consumer spending but rather to year-ago spending levels that were drastically low due to the global economic meltdown.

Many consumers chose to turn online instead of shopping in stores to compare prices, search out bargains and avoid lines and crowds—increasing trips in another period. Spending Pulse found that US retail sales showed signs of stabilizing in the first half of November, in this run up to the holiday season.

While sales of many retailers, such as those selling women's clothing, fell in the first half of November, most showed smaller year-to-year declines, suggesting there won't be the same retail bloodbath this year as last.

"The data is showing that we are to an environment of stable consumer spending but not one of growth," said Kenneth Perkins, director of economic research for SpendingPulse, an information service provided by MasterCard Advisors.

SpendingPulse estimates retail sales for all forms of payment, including cash, checks and credit cards.

The National Retail Federation survey found that discounters and department stores will see the most shoppers, with 94.3 percent of those polled planning to visit the former and 92.4 percent the latter.

More than 40 percent said they would head to electronics stores and 26 percent said they would visit car dealerships or restaurants. Some 27 percent said they would shop online.

Many retailers will open at midnight on Thanksgiving Day each, and 18 percent of shoppers said they would be willing to shop between midnight and 3 a.m.—mostly 18- to 24-year-olds, the report found.

More than a quarter of shoppers said they plan to do all of the early-morning hours, be early risers.

The 2009 survey, conducted by consumer market research firm BIGResearch, polled 8,492 consumers from 9-16. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 1 percent. Reuters

US RETAILERS are taking desperate measures to spark holiday sales.

SHOPPERS walk toward Bloomingdales on the Mall of America.

GOINGS-ON

The North Face acts vs climate change

THE NORTH FACE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED its commitment to help halt climate change by actively supporting the movement for immediate US-wide Energy Policy Efficiency and 2020 targets, and challenged consumers and other businesses to do the same.

"The future success of our business is inextricably linked to having a healthy planet, and we believe that ushering climate change policy is a commitment to effect real and meaningful change," said Shara Ramalho, president of The North Face and VF's Outdoor Americas coalition.

The North Face is a proud customer of Bluesign, which works directly with key allies in the business community and with relevant members of all 50 Congress to support comprehensive energy and climate legislation.

The North Face also strongly believes in and supports the mission of 350.org, an organization that is striving to reduce the world's amount of carbon in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million.

CGPHI takes energy efficiency measures to the next level

AS AN EXPORTER OF ACTIVE GREATER ENERGY Efficiency, Underwriters Laboratories Philippines Holdings Inc. (CGPHI) conducted an energy audit for its Makati office together with the Department of Energy.

CGPHI, which pioneered the development of the country's geothermal industry, said that the DOE-led audit will enable the company to further reduce its carbon footprint. It also highlights the company's commitment to address climate change.

One of the foremost advocates of renewable energy in the country, CGPHI believes this energy audit will set a good benchmark for ongoing and substantial energy conservation efforts.

On Jan. 9, 2008, CGPHI became the first multinational energy company to sign a pledge of commitment for energy efficiency with the DOE.

TeleTech to open two new sites in Makati

DALL CENTER-BASED TELETECH HOLDINGS Inc. says the company will announce details on a possible to open two new sites in the Makati Central Business District at the EcoPlaza Building at Don Chino Roces Avenue and at the 6/F International Tower along Ayala Avenue.

Kenneth Tuchman, TeleTech's founder and chief executive officer for Asia, Richard Barbieri, says the two sites are strategic steps forward to further improving the global support that the Philippines can offer for TeleTech and Made.

Shakey's program wins PMAP People Program of the Year

SHAKEY'S CORE VALUES PROGRAM, A PLAN for consistently up-lift and competitive-ness, recently has won other confidence for the 2009 PMAP People Program of the Year.

Shakey's Core Values (SCV) Program enhances the company's positive work values that are considered important to its sustainable growth and competitiveness.

Like most companies, having this present economic crisis, Shakey's is currently facing great challenges which require creative organizational solutions.

The store, to achieve its vision of becoming the "leading and preferred pizza restaurant chain in the country," employees needed to be molded and guided by the company's core principles closely related to the store values' statements.

Hence, the SCV Program was designed primarily to focus on strengthening the personal values of every employee and aligning these values with those of the company's.

FROM A SMALL factory in Pasay City, Uratex now has 18 factories all over the country.

Uratex readies rollout of new foam products

Four decades of growth and still growing

Uratex lays out plans to become the biggest foam firm in SE Asia

BY N. VERSO. A SMALL FACTORY IN Malibay, Pasay City whose number of flat wire heated under a heated iron, has since grown into a group of companies with over 18 factories nationwide.

This is the Uratex Group, and it has set its sights on becoming one of the top foam makers in Southeast Asia.

The company's growth rate so far is believed to stem values and technology expertise, research and development capabilities, and quality management.

It was more than two decades ago when it invested in technologically-advanced machinery and manufacturing and other equipment to meet growing demands.

Earlier this decade, the company invested in a state-of-the-art foam factory with world-class training standards from Germany called Hennecke Machine Foaming Technology. This state-of-the-art machine can produce consistently high quality foam from blocks, considered to par with the world's finest.

Meanwhile is declared top-of-the-line in foaming machinery, head and shoulders above everybody else.

Its history dates back to 1948, which included the delivery of the raw foam polyurethane processing machine supplied to Hoven, the inventor of foam.

Aside from that, Uratex used bigger Dunlibber were also built to provide better and faster service to customers. These Dunlibber were located strategically in several parts of Metro Manila and nearby areas and then a number of re-splits Uratex's century as a leading foam supplier both locally and internationally.

Research and development (R&D) also from the lifeblood of the company's success.

Uratex's R&D team, housed in the only complete and certified foam testing laboratory in the country, regularly undergoes rigorous training under the tutelage of global foam manufacturing experts and exposed to various manufacturing technologies here and abroad to help them develop newer and better formulated foam products.

The latest global expert who conducted training and consultancy was Dr. Bruno Meda, a renowned expert who was in the forefront of the foam industry during its early years in the 1950s.

Dr. Meda is the holder of many patents still being applied in the global polyurethane industry today.

The company also observed quality management and gave value to customer satisfaction and continues to improve on its performance.

Being an ISO9001-certified organization also helped make Uratex enjoy a strong following in the country with its five main factories (Manila, Cabuyao, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong and Iloilo), Philippine Coop., a joint venture with Inoac Corp. of Japan.

The business of foam manufacturing in the country was the brainchild of Robert Chang, the BOC Group's founder and visionary leader.

Amidst a market full of low-quality foam products, his vision of making foam products that are of high quality and pro-Pinoy affordability was quickly embraced by the discerning Filipino consumer.

Chang's first-ever foam guide became the company's premier foam product that made it the best-selling brand in the Philippines and received customer experiences in terms of durability, comfort, support, world-class quality, affordability and total value for money.

The same recipe of doing business allowed Uratex to be the country's primary supplier for foam mats for the quality-strapped automobile and service-type industries of the Philippines.

Throughout its 61 years of dealing with the automotive OEM industry, the foundations of quality and productivity were further strengthened within the organization.

To date, the Uratex Group's 10 plants are responsible for bringing to the market the widest (and deepest) line of high-quality yet affordable foam products nationwide, making it the leader in the local foam industry. But the company would not stop at its laurels as it intends to be the top foam company in the ASEAN region in terms of technology, excellence, productivity, market share and dedication to world-class excellence.

The company believes it would be able to reach its business goals through teamwork, innovation and total quality management system, at the same time satisfy customers' demand for quality products, affordable yet competitive prices, and always on-time delivery.

As a team maker, Uratex believes that with the right R&D, manufacturing process, and tools and inspection standards, it can come up with world-class products and service for the Philippine market—and for the world.

Regional hub for SME training, financing eyed

A REGIONAL HUB THAT AIMS TO improve the knowledge and capability of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and intend to promote access to funds is being eyed to spur economic growth in Asia Pacific.

The Asian-based International Trade Center (ITC) and the Manila-based Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) signed a memorandum of understanding on Oct. 28, 2009 to build a long-term strategic tie-up.

Beyond SME finance and knowledge, cooperation will be in the field of trade, export institutions and SMEs, resulting in greater access to finance.

The company is expected to produce country-based more than small trade and credit SME managers as sound financial management practices.

"By building a better dialogue on the needs and competencies for SME finance, we hope to assist SME managers become much better equipped to produce bankable proposals that would attract and embolden banks to lend to SMEs," said Dorothy Perrin, ADFIAP secretary general.

In the Asia-Pacific region, SMEs account for around 90 percent of all businesses and employ as much as 80 percent of the workforce.

At present, however, they generate only around 20 percent of exports, mainly due to lack of access to credit.

To help boost SMEs' potential, ADFIAP also inked a memorandum of understanding with the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) for a joint partnership to develop and promote training and capacity building for micro, SMEs in the country and enhance their professional and technical capabilities. Reuters/PNA

The two signing ceremonies were held on the eve of the 5th International Forum for Chief Executives of DFIs (CEO Forum '09) on Oct. 29 at the Dusit Thani Manila, which was organized by ADFIAP for its 300 member institutions, including countries. Present at the signing ceremonies were ADFIAP's Perrin; Jesper Mogelun, ITC senior advisor; trade finance for SMEs unit; and professor Rogerio D. Alonzo, UP ISSI director.

From an old house to a new restaurant

CALLE ARCO is a regular stop of most tourists going to Pagsanjan, Laguna.

Text and Photos
By Karen Lapitan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PAGSANJAN, LAGUNA—FOR love of food, a man and his wife have turned their second home into a restaurant, using heirlooms such as sets of silverware and plates to serve customers.

"At first, we wanted a small and simple business because we both love food," says Anico Cabrega, the town's current council secretary.

Her husband, Oswald (see boxer, is the food industry for 12 years, and has worked for a number of popular restaurants.

In 2006, the couple started serving snacks for residents of Pagsanjan right on their Rizal Street property, which they now called Calle Arco.

The restaurant is located near the famous Pagsanjan Arc at the town's entrance, hence, the name of the establishment.

Soon, demand pushed the couple to train their small entourage into a serious restaurant venture.

"We never thought Calle Arco would become famous," she says.

Asked on what made their food business a success, Anico stated that it could be their family's love for entertaining guests.

"Love for food is a given factor, but the difference for us how you treat customers. In our case, we treat them as if they are visitors to our house," says Anico. "That habit of entertaining guests was actually derived from our grandmothers who owned this house. She loved cooking for guests."

When the Cabregas started out, they used the utensils that Anico's grandmother stored in the house.

From the tables and chairs were set unto which Calle Arco opened as a 20-seater restaurant.

The couple also improved on the menu over the years. From mere snacks and pasta dishes, the Cabregas now serve breakfast, lunch and dinner fare.

Calle Arco is popular for its budgeting an Iloko or may Longlo. She says that the dish is the one enticing more people to eat in their place.

Later, Calle Arco's reputation crossed the town's boundaries.

"Our past and returning clients are doing their part. They would recommend our restaurant to other people," says Anico, who remains gratified with the feedback they get from visitors.

FROM JUST quick meals, Calle Arco has expanded its menu to include lunch and dinner.

When counterfeit goods ...

Viewpoint B4-5

more than significantly.

The company does not want the same thing to happen with Surah.

Fitness currently distributes Surah through more than 50 distributors statewide and on free-standing stores in the Philippines nationwide.

"When we asked the store owners, are these fakes? They say these are awesome. But what's we review the product. It is not a fake. There are discrepancies on the outside, inside tag, even the flexibility of the shoes itself," Chua says.

"Surah in the Philippines is barely three years old. And we are worried that consumers may think what they are buying are the real Sanuks. This will damage the brand image because it does not have the same quality and comfort that Sanuk is known for," she adds.

Upgrades save IT firms

From page B1-4

and technology executives in Asia-Pacific view the economic downturn as a catalyst to increase significant restructuring of ICT products and services."

She said despite the recession, businesses had continued to support traditional business development, increase competitiveness, enhance technology use and make use of ICT to increase profit.

According to her, three trends have been viewed by HP as an opportunity to nurture high customer base despite the downturn.

"HP strived to change the economics of technology for former business customers in both the short and long terms," she said, adding that the ICT company had eased the erosion of its customer base and optimized products and services.

She said that, despite the downturn, HP had expanded its services by enabling out to customers who wanted to increase the performance and security of their ICT equipment.

"The goal has been to help customers reduce costs, but also complexities."

Ramang and Dela Rosa represented Intel and HP, respectively, in the keynote forum, an annual gathering of the country's ICT journalists, held this year at the Manila Bay Resort Tree Resort in Cagayan Island, Boracay town, Aklan province.

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BUSINESS Friday

Meralco boosts customer service with new satellite office

Oscar M. Lopez during the inauguration of the MCAO. Meralco vowed to further ensure full customer service satisfaction, uphold consumer welfare and adhere to customer protection.

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) recently opened the Meralco Consumer Assistance Office (MCAO), which is a Meralco satellite office located in the same building where the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is situated, on the 5th floor of the Pacific Center Building in Ortigas, Pasig City. The MCAO seeks to provide electricity consumers with more convenient access to agents who can receive customer complaints and other service-related inquiries.

As MCAO is now near the ERC, electricity consumers now have the convenience of having their Meralco and ERC concerns attended to at just one place. As such, clients of both Meralco and ERC are bound to save on time and transportation expenses, and benefit as well from the faster resolutions of their service complaints.

The MCAO is a breakthrough idea in customer care, being the first satellite office of any distribution utility to work closely with the regulatory agency in providing customers with cost efficient and enhanced service delivery. MCAO was created in response to the call of the ERC to protect the welfare of consumers and deliver them with utmost convenience.

MCAO's office and functions mainly involve complaints handling, specifically in the areas of billing, service interruption, service application and payments. Aside from these duties, the office is also tasked to handle requests and other consumer concerns.

As Meralco fulfills its commitment to address the needs of its consumers, the power firm vows to further ensure "full customer service satisfaction, upheld consumer welfare and adhere to customer protection."

Upgrades save IT firms

By Jovan Calubiran Baliza
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAGBALAY ISLAND, ENGOM, Albay—An officer of a computer shop company that had to shut down in Philippine pinas in the first half of this year because of the economic downturn said most information and communication technology (ICT) firms managed to survive the recession by offering new and improved versions of their products to meet consumer demand.

Ricardo F. Barang, country manager of Intel Technology Philippines Inc., said consumers, especially those in towns, had been willing to upgrade their computers despite the financial crisis just to cope with the latest Internet applications, especially networking and video sharing sites such as Facebook and YouTube.

"Consumers may be hesitant to purchase during times of economic uncertainty, but new images and new applications require upgrades, so we have to meet them," said Barang.

He added that the increasing popularity of social networking sites, for instance, had increased demand for more efficient computers than even home-based consumers felt the need to upgrade their devices and purchase ICT products.

In turn, ICT companies continued to refresh their products and services and consequently benefited from high consumer consumption despite the economic slowdown.

He said 35 percent of computers used in homes, already suffering from wear and tear after years of use, were not suited for new applications, as consumers use the latest in gadgets.

"Facebook and YouTube, for instance, have become popular only recently so that those who had bought computers before, probably would want their computers upgraded."

Business need

Barang said businesses, large and small, had also seen the advantage of upgrading their ICT equipment.

Technology, according to him, had been recognized as an integral part of the business ecosystem. Investing in technology would allow even the smallest companies to climb bigger and greater markets that used to be available only to large enterprises.

Most businessmen believe that, although resources are limited and budgets are tight, investing even during an economic downturn may still help them cut costs and increase productivity, he added.

"Companies [are willing] to accelerate business growth by investing in the right technologies that can even effective," Barang said, adding that the main concern of businesses now is to reduce costs while maintaining revenue of investments.

"This concern has been tapped by ICT companies, including Intel, as green consumer base could as healthy business environment."

Cost-efficient

Barang said a company could reduce operational costs by up to 50 percent if it would upgrade its computers and other ICT equipment.

Households feel need to invest in IT despite downturn

"Buying a new computer unit, for instance, had become more cost-efficient than maintaining a four-year-old unit."

Citing a study conducted by Forrester Research, he said businesses that had chosen not to upgrade their ICT equipment in hope of reducing costs should brace for significant increases in maintenance and repair costs, and security and system failures.

"Additional support costs for old-er computers increase steeply with age."

He said older computers would be more likely to have security problems.

"In four to six years, a computer that has not been upgraded may experience [up to] 120-percent increase in susceptibility to security problems."

Decreased productivity

Barang said decreased productivity and manageability and increased maintenance would be the major problems facing companies.

He said increased worker productivity, faster response times and product and service innovation, resulting from efficient ICT equipment, would boost business.

Those business concerns, he said, had been heavily considered by ICT companies in an effort to maintain a sound consumer base amid the economic downturn.

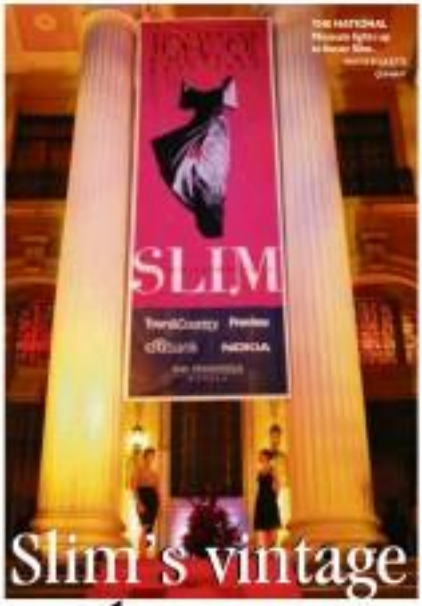
Optimizing products

Diana Dela Rosa, technology services country manager of Hewlett-Packard (HP) Philippines, said HP also employed the same strategy in coping with the recession. Other companies had made similar moves.

"Sixty-eight percent of business

UPGRADES B2.2

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty



Slim's vintage advantage

At the National Museum is a celebration of style's grande dame and a rare look at her genius use of colors, line, draping and beadwork

By Lizvy Lorenzo
Contributor

"I FELT LIKE I DIED AND WENT TO Philippine female couture heaven," gasped Ito Cuenca Dominguez, from Pitoy Moreno to Louis Gaspard, from Inday Ibona Bautista to Mel Rodriguez, were awestruck by last Tuesday's exhibit of stunning creations by Salvacion Lim Higgins, or Slim, an almost 50 years-stopcoiffe.

The exhibit marked the book launch of Slim's design legacy. Brilliantly photographed and meticulously catalogued for future generations of fashion students leaving the timeline of this towering pillar of Philippine fashion. (The exhibit at National Museum in P. Burgos, Manila, will run until March 2010. It is open to the public.)

Slim's extraordinary body of work showcased in the exhibit and the coffee-table book soon lovingly compiled by Mark and Sandy Higgins (the children of the Empress of High Fashion in the golden era of local couturiers in the '50s to the '70s).

But Monday's 400 who came to worship at the altar of high fashion last Tuesday at National Museum, it was a celebration of the style's grande dame and a rare look at her

(SEE P. C3)

CARLITO MANNING. Slim's signature model wears a '60s embroidered jac by Slim.

AGELESS BEAUTIES. Ching Monteiola in Iparisread with Celeste Lontok in black lace

ANGEL WEARS PRADA. Karla Delgado

COLD SHOULDER. Teresa Herrera

STAR OF THE NIGHT. Victoria Pastilla

Slim's vintage advantage

Pi last page 61

Her genius use of colors, line, draping and headwork stands the test of time. Works of wearable art, masterpieces of silver-conscious headwork worn by society's most unquotable ladies like Gloria Kintera, Chito Madrigal and Caelyn Manning, may be studied up close. Anyone who wants to know Philippine fashion history must buy this book in National Bookstore retail outlets.

At the launch on the ladies who launched, in strictly formal gowns. Some were in vintage Slim while others were modern couture for an unanimous unmistakable look. The advantage of wearing vintage is that you are wearing history with national pride. This makes you stand out for it is one-of-a kind, completely flattering-feminine in form and function, style-and substantial drama.

SLIM'S 24

MARK Higgins, only son of Slim, with Isabelle Tantoco and Dee Bautista

ROYAL companion on Slim's grandniece Karina Prieto

MOTHER and daughter Mats and Loren Velasa

WIRED FORMAL. Boris Carlos

TETS PANAHAN wears Slim's Pluviton's gown by Slim.

HAPPY SMILES. Katrina and Cristina Ponce Enrile

PEARLY DEARTS. Debora Pastilla

BLACK AND WHITE. Tara Santos and Bambi Harper

RED HOT. Slim's design on niece Frances Lim

INFANTICIDE TIME. Myrra Sison

SAMORA Pablo Cibeles in modern classics

GANG OF THREE. Candidates Bernardo, Pilay Marcos and Patty Benitez

GODDESS GOWN. Pepsi-Ideal column on Mat Kaufman

Large, bright Big Apple totes

KATE Spade Poppy Fields nylon/Sonia kagin Aldican HSNC

KATE Spade Big Apple nova in black and pink (far right)

THIS SEASON, KATE SPADE SHOULDERS the Big Apple Tote variations...big and bright, reminiscent of its namesake.

Made of vinyl and embossed with an oversized kate spade New York signature, the tote comes in colourful, vibrant colors, including cherry hot pink, basil and cheesecake, as well as porcelain and black. This roomy carry-all makes for the perfect urban accessory.

Matching colorful ensemble is the Poppy Fields Nylon Sorrie tote in African violet. For a chaotic take on easy elegance, the new collection also presents the Poppy Fields Lauralee in black and red. Made with gold chain link hardware, this quilted Autumn statement piece seals the deal for day-to-night transformations.

Kate Spade is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is located at The Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt 3, Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

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Picture Perfect

Flip flops as joyful self-expression

HOTFLOPS AND THE BRAINCHILD OF Linda Spaeta, a Southern California-based mother of four.

Hotflops are constructed from a hard EVA base for long-lasting durability and support. The base is then covered with a soft EVA layer to provide both style and comfort.

Resting comfortably between your toes is a precision-angled spider, engineered for the perfect fit. The patented one-piece molded thong—with no sewing, staples, rivets, glue or mechanical fasteners, is as comfortable as it is durable.

On top of every flop are hand-painted, custom-crafted designs—from sweet tennis and basketballs, to underwater creatures, bunches of grapes and even spider chips...all seamlessly attached for comfort, durability and joyful self-expression.

With a bachelor of Science in Aviation and a minor in Business, Spaeta enjoyed a successful career in property management, culminating the acquisition of a luxury hotel.

Author unexpectedly and while on honeymoon in Hawaii, she sparked the Hotflops concept. With the help of her engineering background, she developed and patented the unique one-piece thong mold and concepts that have become the Hotflops hallmark.

Available in all SM branches, Greenbelt 5, Shangri-La Mall Pampanga soon to open in Alabang Town Center, and Tiendesa.

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GO BEYOND

Slim's vintage advantage

From page C3

SLIM'S SHORT DRESSES ARE SO HOT! A white pique day dress, a bronze bubble-skirted cocktail frock and a shawl-dress-with-sleeves-and-pulp-skirt from the '50s, '70s and '80s

HOW TODAY THAN YESTERDAY. Slim's fully beaded halter tube gown from the '70s

SLIM'S FILIPINIANA. Fully beaded couture kimono and chiffon skirt in a one-piece gown you could wear today

LIFESTYLE Fashion

Using one's own body fat for facelift, breast augmentation

Instead of discarding the fat from liposuction, why not recycle it?

THE AUTHOR

By Manuel O. Fernandez Jr., MD
Contributor

FOR MANY YEARS, TERRICHAS BIDEN no reconstructive procedure to correct contour deformities after breast cancer surgery, particularly after a partial mastectomy. Patients were simply asked to accept and deal with the deformity and this affects the patients, mentally and socially.

Now, autologous fat transplantation with or without adipose-derived stem cells can successfully correct these contour deformities. In simple terms, it's the transfer of fat from one area to another area of the patient.

"Fat can be done under local anesthesia with sedation, and in our outpatient procedure. The treatment has been used for

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Enjoy Holiday Dining with Instant Citi Rewards

By Anneth S. Tayao

When it comes to good food and fun, family dining experience, one can always rely on Pancake House, Inc. Starting with the all-time favorite breakfast destination, Pancake House, the company has since grown and has acquired other well-established restaurants such as Dencio's and has even established its new original, upscale dining place-Kabisera ng Dencio's.

Arguably Manila's Luxurious Hotel, Peninsula Manila has always been top-of-mind when it comes to good breakfast food. Landing on Philippine shores in the '70s, the hotel's signature elegant eatery found its first home at the Magallanes Theater in Makati. Its walls were initially filled with vintage posters given by the theater, and this has become the restaurant's trademark look ever since. While its main-selling point thirty years back was its bacon and pancakes and waffles, Pancake House has extended its menu to include other breads, pastas, salads and rice-meals, making the restaurant more than just a breakfast place. So far, Pancake House has almost 60 restaurants nationwide.

Dencio's, which has established its presence in the local dining industry since 1991, was welcomed by the Pancake House, Inc. family in 2005. Serving original Filipino dishes in a Filipino atmosphere, Dencio's customers range from friends to families to professionals, and everyone in between. Their bestselling dish, sizzling and grilled Sisig-Dencio, keep their customers coming back for more, whether for a wholesome family occasion or a night of unwinding and bonding.

Speaking on the popularity of Dencio's, Lorenzo and his company decided to create their own original brand-an upscale version of the old restaurant. Thus, Kabisera ng Dencio's was born.

"Kabisera, in Filipino culture, is where we call the chief-for the queen of honey, or for people in high power or position," says Francesca Sandoval, Marketing Manager of Pancake House, Inc. "That's the idea behind which Kabisera ng Dencio's name from, we intention is to regard our guests in the highest honor."

With these three powerhouse restaurants, families, friends, couples and just about anyone can enjoy the great dishes and dining experience that Pancake House, Inc. has to offer. Now, eating out has become even more enjoyable with the company's tie-up with Citibank through the Instant Citi Rewards' Pay with Points.

Using their Citi Classic and Gold, Visa and MasterCard, and Citi Platinum Visa cards, customers can pay up to 50 percent of their total bill using their accumulated Rewards points. And at the same time, they accumulate more Rewards points for paying the rest of their bill using their Citi card!

"No more waiting for the catalogue," says Maya Lima, Citibank Cards Vice President for Card Business Group. "Pay with Points lets cardholders use their points as it comes."

What's great is that this promotion applies in all three restaurants-Pancake House, Dencio's and Kabisera. On top of this innovative offer,

Use your Citi Rewards points to pay up to 50% of your bill when you dine at Pancake House, Dencio's and Kabisera ng Dencio's

MR. MARTIN P. ORENSTEIN, President of Pancake House, Inc.

ENJOYING the sumptuous and imaginative dishes of Kabisera ng Dencio's

LECHON sa Kanyhong from Kabisera ng Dencio's

each restaurant also has added promotions for Citibank cardholders.

Pancake House, Citicardholders can get a 10 percent discount on their bill for a minimum single-receipt purchase of at least P500.

"It's great for the coming Christmas season, since paying with points makes spending easier on the customers' wallets," says Elena.

The holidays will also be bringing new dishes to Pancake House, which customers can look forward to: Cranberry Pancakes and Combo Plate with Creamy Potato Salad, Chestnut Pancakes and Pork Schnitzel with Glazed Salad, and Dessert de Bola Pancakes and Glazed Ham Slices with Hawaii Roll Salad.

"These new dishes infuse the holiday flavors to our traditional pancakes," says Sandoval.

For Dencio's, Citi cardholders can get a free Crispy Bangus Sisig for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P1,000. This season, starting Nov. 26, holiday dishes also await those who are looking for some Christmas flavor. Nilagang Pares (chicken, pork, beef and chorizo Bilbao with sweet potatoes, cabbage, singkamas, saging na saba, potatoes, green beans and pechay Tagalog), Pinoy Caldereta (beef chunks with chorizo de bilbao, potatoes, cabbage, saging na saba, green beans and garbanzos), and Tinolang Manok (fresh pomelo in a light ginger, chili and lemon grass broth with papaya and malunggay leaves).

Finally, over at Kabisera ng Dencio's, Citi cardholders will receive free two orders of Sisa Rice for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P1,000. Holiday dishes are also in store for

CRANBERRY Pancakes with Combo Blue and Creamy Potato Salad

KARAY Bangus Sisig from Dencio's

UBE Pulvoran from Kabisera ng Dencio's

Kabisera customers, these include Binagka, Kwarenta Hindalot, and Binampalusang Lechon Macao, which will also be offered starting Nov. 26.

And even with these discount and freebies, they can still avail of the Pay with Points promotion using their Citi Rewards points!

So whether it's breakfast, lunch, dinner-or even a midnight snack-Pancake House Inc. is complete with all the food choices you'll want. And with Instant Citi Rewards, dining out will become a more fun, memorable and worry-free experience.

For more information on establishments that honor Instant Citi Rewards, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 8000000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph for more details. No Citi card yet? Apply now and enjoy dining and shopping with Rewards Points!

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Skin and hair care for the cold months

AROUND 10-13°C OR 50-55°F were the average temperatures at Hong Kong during my vacation. I took upon these cold vacations as a great opportunity to nourish beauty products for drier skin and hair because that is where we are headed to the weather will just get colder till February.

Among the products I had with me, these were my life-savers:

Hair

It was main reconstructive due to cold and shampoo so a moisturizing shampoo like Elemis Professional Oilfix did a great job of cleansing my hair while making it soft, shiny and manageable.

Kiehl's Sunflower Color Preserving Conditioner made each parched strand of flyaway still hair silky. To maintain volume at the roots, hair mousse samples from Redken and Kenraluxe penetrated my crown from thinning out.

Face

Normally very greasy and acne-prone, my face felt tight and uncomfortable with a greasy film on top.

My skin interrupted my sign as it became dehydrated mild-ish-like lines entered the eyes, forehead and mouth, but remained oily which is the most confounding issue.

Many Kay's Timewise 3-Dimension gel-cream for normal to oily skin controlled the oil but inhibited my skin with the much-needed boost of moisture in the day time were treated out. It only has three quick steps to follow for day and night so it was not much of a chore.

The three-in-one cleanser took out dirt and makeup, toned and exfoliated. The moisturizer used right in, but did not feel greasy and the day SPF 25 and night treatment which was the step of the program had a firming effect on the face and neck.

Now: The other variant is normal to oily skin for cleanser and moisturizer while the treatments are the same.

One store which I noticed was always crowded was Estee Lauder Lounge. Its bestsellers, Water Break Essence and Time Sleeping Pack, were a great help for nights when the room heater sucked out all moisture from the skin leaving it tight and itchy. One will wake up with baby-soft, dewy skin, thanks mostly to the Water Sleeping Pack.

I feel, though, that this essence won't be moisturizing enough for very dry skin or those headed toward freezing winter countries.

Locally, Laneige is available at Tasteson or Robinson's Place Manila.

Body

I worked miles with Decleor Aromessence Cocoon Illuminating Concentrate and Contour Balm from the medicine cabinet.

Along with briefly changing copious amounts of green tea and bathroom traffic to relieve aching forgotten morning regimens, I got to thinking about ways one could slim down—or at least stick to a healthy lifestyle with sound food choices—via shortcuts that really work and make sense, without having to exercise to a full gym membership or rob me of weekend schedule, at least in the interim. Think fitness insurance for the couch potato.

Squeeze in protein

When Nicole Richie was yielding rumors regarding her sudden weight loss a few years back, I read an interview wherein she mentioned having a trainer who simply told her to eat protein with all of her meals.

This is as simple as throwing in chicken to fried rice, or swapping a starchy muffin with protein bodies. Since protein takes longer to digest, it offsets the quick burning of simple carbs that tend to make you crash, and cuts more sugar.

Find your poison

Figure out a reasonable antidote if you can't quit. If you love pork barbecue, go easy on the color; if pizza and pasta make you happy, insist on a healthier pizza and pasta.

My mother's is baked goods and bread; mine is anything laced with sugar and chocolate.

So those days, when I bake something at home, I try to use whole-wheat flour, add coconut to chocolate-chip cookies (paleo is to a blender or food processor to make it disappear into the batter), or incorporate organic ingredients to up the nutrition factor of otherwise wont-like-bursting concoctions.

Embrace fashion

Coming in terms with the food culprits you allow in your life also contributes to understanding your body, and this is where good fashion advice comes in.

Instead of letting now your pear-shaped physique, find clothes and accessories that draw the eye up to your slim shoulders and arms. In my case,

For always had a paunch, as my grandmother reminds of plenty of structured tops, flowy prints, and good-fitting shoes. You'll be surprised at how much fun you'll have finding the perfect jeans or floral dress, regardless what number you register on the weighing scale.

Eat frequently

Restrictively portion your food.

I find it abnormally hilarious how fitness experts tell you to eat 15 pistachios in a sitting or to count the almonds you consume. Have you ever opened a bag of pistachios? Trust me, it's isn't happening. A hundred is more like it.

However, I find that there is some truth to this (very) limited portion if you're already eating frequently that your stomach doesn't need that much to feel full. Then that's the only time you could adhere to the 15 almond rule. Which brings me to...

Prioritize the tips you follow

Not all diet urge quips work on everybody. As a general disclaimer, before you try anything dramatic, check in with a doctor to see if what you're about to do is nutritionally sound. Also, be sensitive to how your body is reacting to how something agrees (or disagrees) with your natural setting.

So here is my take on skinny diet if you particularly enjoy sugar bombs (alcohol or non-vegetarian when a juicy fat steak brings Epicurean bliss to your existence. And you horror: the Cabbage Soup Diet if you live for variety.

Setting realistic goals and expectations is what makes a diet successful, and more and by vanity can't be from me a diet translates into a lifestyle choice.

When I gained 15 pounds a few years back, the Abs Diet (Rodale) by Dr Men's Health editor David Zinczenko was what helped me melt the extra weight away in the course of a year. It's a sensible eating plan that encourages one to go for more food than less, as in the case of traditional diets.

I still try to incorporate the Abs Diet Power 12 list to this day, which consists of the following: almonds and other nuts; beans and legumes; spinach and other green vegetables; dairy (fat-free or low-fat milk, yogurt, cheese); instant oatmeal (unsweetened, unflavored); eggs; turkey and other lean meats; peanut butter; olive oil; wholegrain breads and cereals; extra-protein (whey) powder; raspberries and other berries.

Ask Muriel a beauty question at http://flavorpotbig@apple.com, or visit her blog at http://MyMurielBlue.com.

LUXE mineral makeup for a sheer, softer look.

Isabel Bunes, Backstage Plus

Jane Iredale (available at Boutique's Innovoi; Obvoli's True Match Minerals line; Maybelline's Mineral Line; and Laneige's Tropicana Minerals Bronzer.

Precious Medina, senior makeup artist for Bannerman Salon (tel 4782222, 0917-5377333) shares:

"Mineral makeup can cover acne, rosacea, and discoloration, stand up to sweat, heat, and perspiration; reflect light, thus, maximizing the appearance of flawless skin and wrinkles; give you full coverage with only a little amount of product, and; leave skin with radiant candlelight glow.

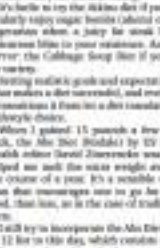
"I love using mineral makeup on myself and my clients because it lasts the entire day; it is perfect for oily skin since no oils are used in their products; it sits in between pores, not about pores; its nanoparticle size is perfect for today's high definition technology, and it does not feel heavy and stifling on the face like the usual chemical-based makeup."

Try Max Factor Mineral Minerals Foundation, it comes with a 100-percent natural brush that allows one to touch up anytime and anywhere.

How to stay slim for the holidays

IN AN EFFORT TO GET SLENDER FOR A long holiday, I'd researched my dormant Decléor Aromessence Cocoon Illuminating Concentrate and Contour Balm from the medicine cabinet.

Muriel Cleo, Beauty in the Big Apple



DECLEOR Aromessence Contour Balm

Using one's own body fat for facelift, breast augmentation

Fromage Or

years to correct different degrees of contour deformities with varying techniques.

Instead of discarding the fat from liposuction, why not recycle it and inject it under the skin to "puff out" any depressed areas in the face or body, or to augment the volume of the breasts and buttocks?

Technically, it sets as filler like collagen or hyaluronic acid. The best thing about it is that it's free and there is no possible adverse reaction or rejection of the material.

Volume changes

The popularity of this procedure has been on the rise as enthusiasts in medical circles have evolved. I have been doing autologous fat transplants without adding adipose derived stem cells for the past 10 years to correct volume changes in the face due to aging and trauma, as well as lipodystrophy like lipoatrophy from HIV patients.

It is a very satisfying and successful procedure. However, there have been problems related to graft longevity, unpredictable survival rates of the fat cells and occasional necrosis.

It is a fact that, as one grows older, one loses part of the subcutaneous fat and the facial muscles thin out. There is volume loss, which must be replaced.

Attention has focused only on fat-filling procedures. But the best way to replace this volume loss is by adding small amounts of one's own fat as different levels into the muscle mass and just above the bone.

Increased popularity

Two recent developments have increased the use and popularity of autologous fat transplants. First, the technology to isolate stem cells from fat in the operating room without culturing, and the ability to re-inject it into the patient in its pure form or mixed with the patient's own fat for volume/contour purposes, has been refined. This enables real-time access to stem and regenerative cells.

The second reason is, the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery has given its seal to the use of autologous fat transplants to augment the breasts and buttocks of patients.

This procedure is the only method of tissue augmentation without scarring, and has the possibility of rejection unlike synthetic fillers, and, in this case, the filler is free.

Studies made in Europe have shown very good results, especially with breast augmentation and correction of contour deformities after breast cancer surgeries.

Survival of the fat grafts is dependent upon the technique and expertise of the surgeon, as well as the formation of new and active blood supply triggered by the stem cells.

The other aesthetic filler available on the market have their uses in correcting other minor defects. But the autologous fat transplant treatment is the latest technique, and can be done as stand-alone procedure for facial rejuvenation, or for lips or surgical facelift. It can also be done as an adjunct procedure after a facelift, to get further improvement—as long as the color, so to speak.

Dr Ahmad G Fernandez Jr, a US board-certified cosmetic surgeon, has practiced in Europe and Asia to study aging. He is originally, He is the head of the Aesthetic Center of Makati Medical Center, and is an associate professor at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital Medical Center.

Variety Bracket

Ultra Violet fall look

Make Up For Ever presents Ultra Violet for fall. To recreate this look the team favors a violet and steel gray eyeshadow, water-proof pencils from the Aqua line. Make Up For Ever is located at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and G/F, Bonifacio High Street, Rockwell Global City, Taguig.

Nutrimetics Skinlogics

Called the Direct Selling Philippines introduces Nutrimetics Skinlogics, which harnesses the power of natural ingredients like Vitamin C, ginseng, green tea, ginkgo biloba complex and co-enzyme Q10 to brighter, lighter and newer skin of women aged 25 and above. Available in facial wash, facial scrub and toner. The company also presents its Wrinkle Inverter Gel. Call 8560000.

Deodorant line

Snobbé offers Mineral Deodorant Spray. Deodorant Roll-on and Mineral Deodorant Stick in regular and herbal extracts. The Snobbé family also includes Deodorizing Powder, Foot Powder and Foot Spray. Available at Watsons's Drug/Health and Beauty outlets.

Beauty enhancement product

Rainbows introduces its non-invasive, non-surgical, non-permanent alternative. The product has non-animal stabilized hyaluronic acid which is also the same polysaccharide found in the human body that gives volume to skin, shape to the eyes, and elasticity to the joints. Call 0917-8888878/ 0920-3410130/ 3927-6750526.

Dietary supplement

Mel Tetsuna is a dietary supplement with alpha lipoic acid, an antioxidant that is both fat- and water-soluble, and carnosine, a peptide of the cell. It has sodium ascorbate, natural Vitamin C and premium grade reduced glutathione. Available at leading drugstores.

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WORKSHOP OF PGH AND SINGAPORE HOSPITAL
The University of the Philippine Manila-Philippine General Hospital recently conducted the first Ultrasound Guided Peripheral Nerve Block Workshop. This was a project of the PGH Department of Anesthesiology with the Alexandra Hospital of Singapore Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care. There was a series of lectures and hands-on demonstration on the use of ultrasound in visualizing peripheral nerves. Specialists who conducted the workshop from Alexandra Hospital were doctors Jacob Manzabar, Marielle Chia, David Tan, Lieu Ivor Sinnthar and Bin Wei e Hoon. The rest are faculty doctors: Dr. Prosthencis Calungsod Cano, section chief of Orthopedic Anesthesia of the PGH. Photo shows doctors Manzabar, Chia, Sinnthar, Prosthencis Calungsod Cano, Hoon, Tan and Roland Capito.

Fund-raising Christmas concert for Manila Cathedral

THE 4TH MANILA CATHEDRAL-BASILICA Pipe Organ Festival (tel. 527-1796, 527-1000 local 5258/59, 0917-5142014) will bring together the biggest church-clustered symphonic pipe organ in Southeast Asia, the Manila Cathedral-Basilica Pipe Organ and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. The event will be held Dec. 3, 7 p.m., admission for the Soloist Jubilee Christmas Gala Concert. The gala concert intends to raise funds for the Manila Cathedral's restoration projects and financial assistance to the victims of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

Piano concert

Pianists Margaret Wilson, Marvin Juan, Stephanie Cruz, Angela Lee and Rafael del Rosario from St. Scholastica's College School of Music will be featured in Paco Park Presents today, 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Choral music concert

On Nov. 29, 5 p.m., Men of Praise, Psalmist and Manila Adventist Medical Center Church choir perform in Concert in the Park's program titled Choral Music. Maribe Padilla is program host. Admission is free.

Koro Ilustrado in concert

Koro Ilustrado will hold its launching concert, "Koro: Manik, Kinutsa!" on Dec. 2, 8 p.m. at the Philam Life Theater on Ubi Avenue, Manila. The concert (tel. 582-4488, e-mail is-school.inside@yahoo.com) ... wear tuxedos for the awards; concertmaster co-conductors Edmund Abes Paguirigan Jr. and Anna Abubakar Pasquin with an all-male repertoire of classical, standards and Ilk-tetsee choral music. Tickets at P500 each.

AOL concert

The Ambassadors of Light, a choral group of visually-impaired young talents will hold a concert and induction of its board members in commemoration to be held on Nov. 28, 5 p.m., at the Philippine Women's University Gokongwei Hall, 1908 Ave., Manila. Guest speaker is Dr. Helena Z. Benitez, PWU board chair.

Health congress

The International Association of Educators for World Peace hosts the 5th Philippine Congress and Exhibition on Natural Health with the theme, "There can be no peace on earth there is healing." The event, the 2007-2009 ATLITOS, a rapid and literature-manila division, conclave be held Dec. 4-6 at the Philippine Trade Training Center at 60 J. Pioli Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free lectures on peace and healing, organic soaps, probiotics, immunology, blood purification, financial wellness, diet for cancer patients, chelation therapy, stem cell/umbilical cord collection and water for life will be held Dec. 5-6.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors: Jenni J. Epperson, Apples Alexis Sallenave and Ria Francisco Prieto

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Tailoring with a twist

Blend it with something more soft and relaxed

Soy meets girl

Dressing gowns made even more sexy when paired with your man's jacket

IT'S THE PERSONAL CAR OF the fashion pendulum. Some time ago, fashion was all about oversized—big "bling," blow in the time to put back some streamlined structure into our outfits, even if fashion journalists opine that it's a knee-jerk reaction to the recessionary times.

Tailoring is back, but with a fresh twist. The signs are everywhere. On the catwalks of Prada, Lanvin, Dolce & Gabbana and Dior. '40s-style skirt-suits and the boyfriend blazer (slip women into boyish menswear for a more feminine look. Dries Van Noten, Ungaro, Hermès and Costume Nationel heralded classic tailored jackets.

Jenni J. Epperson

I have some women may stiffen up at the idea of tailoring, thinking it's all about buttoned-up, starched duds," said "mumbo-jumbo" outfits. But that's old news. Don't make the mistake of wearing an ensemble that looks, which can look too serious and mature.

The fun bit in this season is the look's playful turn.

It's not just about matching a jacket with a pair of trousers anymore. Edgy tailoring maybe show-creativity for a more interesting look. Cop-tard creates a look that is most jovial.

To quote Harold Tillman, the

Power lunch with the big boys

Look sharp from 9 to 5 and beyond with an oversized jacket with kimono pattern with an edgy vest.

MELDA Chua with Penny Hipe, Tessie Chua and Irene Chua

ANNABELLE Cuason and Marivan Ang

PAPERDOLLS' Koby Gutierrez and Eric Viernes

VIVIAN Ng and Dexter Ong

RICHARD Ng with Eileen Hipe and Paperdolls' Ian Jasper Ong

Paperdolls launches Kate Torralba collection to mark its 25th year

FIA FINGALDINA with attractive dolls Maureen, Clara and Sarah

PAPERDOLLS' Tessie Ong and Penny Hipe (far right) with the woman of the hour, brilliant designer Kate Torralba

FLAUNTING DRESS UP IS PART OF A WOMan's childhood—sneaking into her mom's closet for an ear-catching dress, wearing mom's finest jewelry and posing on sky-high heels. Well, Paperdolls hooked a night of reminiscing with the presentation of an instant fashion collaboration with designer royale **Kate Torralba**, no less, dahlings.

Gorgeously dolled-up dolls of society and boys who once love dolls entered the Rockwell

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaiz De

Tour and instantly-sold-out fit-for-a-queen gala. The exhibit tables were cute dolls and the played a doll evening the night's honored victim.

Socializing dolls were asked "to cultivate their inner child" while the invites hop into runway food trays (like, drowning it with wine from Ralph's Pizza & Spahi) and Absolut Vodka. The grand highlight of this hop-pening was the fashion show led by Kate Torralba's chic creations.

A toast to its 25th year, Paperdolls collaborated with the colorful and ingeniously versa-tile designer Kate Torralba for the 57 for Paperdolls collection. It has tons of splendor of colors to fit petite, comfy cheetah jeans and cool corsets. Word here to have them in your closet, dahlings.

Flanked by Paperdolls' Tessie Ong and **Jasper Ong**, along with brand manager **Koby Gutierrez**, Manila's upper crust swarmed to view it events at launch regulars did not miss one months.

Guests were invited to take the dahlings and inclusive their closets for a route, all clothes collected will be donated to the Philippine National Red Cross. A good idea for together cause, dahlings!

Kate Torralba for Paperdolls is exclusively available in SM Department Stores nation-wide.

KRIS Bernal snuggles adorable bear from patient and Crown Councilor Alejo Alatancang

COSMO Connected Alejo Alatancang, councilor of Iloilo

ZOE GOULD of Cosmopolitan Philippines

Bachelor bash

These are the boys your parents warned you to stay away from—"rebels without a cause." The new Cosmopolitan magazine let the bad boys loose during the Cosmopolitan Bachelor Bash at the NBC Tent, The Fort.

Fearless females got the chance to play naughty games with hot bachelors (complete with the "Cosmo Truth Blood Oath" to publish love Andy Mead), who played the "bad Vir-don," had men acting out life behind prison bars, complete with the bars, pussy cowgirls and body paint, dahlings.

Playing "Most Wanted Criminals" were this year's Celebrity Cosmobachelor, **Daniel Mid-somayor** and models for **Gerard Vandenven**, among others who graced the cover of the Cosmo Men supplement. It was a sea with women screaming as they aimed their water guns at the forearm of the bachelors' anatomy endings. Get the picture?

Cosmopolitan Bachelor Bash was co-pre-sented by Cosmo, Wise Investors, Del Monte Fit n' Right, Promaxer Condoms and Skin Mig Light plus Igniscents and Cosmo.ph.

The show were shown with the Cosmo bachelors and Cosmo cosmobrids, visit www.Cosmo.ph. Text Ellen to, palanggas.

BAD BOYS break loose in this year's Cosmo Bash

5-star residences

Leave it to SM Residences to vividly cap-ture Filipinos' fashion, featuring high fash-ion inspired by the luxurious lifestyles reflect-ed by its five-star residential projects during the Fashion Week, palanggas. The Spring /Summer 2010 collections were on its 12th year, of over 100 designers was held at the SMX Convention Center and SM Mall of Asia. It's the biggest, grandest and most awesome gathering of the country's best designers and fashion houses.

For the fashion presentation, SM Resi-dences presented the new collections of de-signers Chris Eder and Michelle Lim, who truly represented the luxury lifestyle found at SM Residences' first-class condominium-line Residences and Field Residences, no less, palanggas.

SM Residences also boasts of other resi-dential projects strategically located for city dwellers all over our treaty, palanggas.

For more info, call 9560306/9917-9305551 or visit www.smresidences.com.

Remember, palanggas, only birds get the force of everything. SM Residences' Condo-minium projects of SM Development Corp-oration to offer so many affordable prices.

GUMMYF cool shorts and hip sightwear by Kate Torralba for Paperdolls

HALLEY and Jerome Perales with Olga Ramos

UST concert gala

Just a reminder, palanggas, all is set for the super one-of-a-kind fundraiser during the UST Christmas Concert Gala, which was an awesome successful happening last year, dahlings. The event will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at the UST Chapel.

Co-hosts after the show will be served at the UST Museum and attended by the alumni association La Tuna. Chairperson are persons, artists who dedicate their time and effort for a much needed cause, headed by Marinela Es-bel and Fr. Isidro Abaño, O.P. to host. Benefi-ciaries are the Heritage Conservation sites of the university and scholarship grants of the UST Conservancy of Music. The truly awe-some show happening is strictly this year, dahlings. Mark the mid evening gown. Re-member, palanggas, this event is strictly ser-vational. See you there.

For more info, call Secretaria Fernandez at 7243841 or 4064421 loc 8318 or 7405727.

SM DEVELOPMENT Corp. MVP Gilbert Jeng

SM DEVELOPMENT Corp.'s Jose Ednisson and Claudio Javier

DESIGNER Gerry Kashyab with Desiree Ventadorn and husband Dr. JB Advincula

SM DEVELOPMENT Corp. VP for sales Eileen Tan

TALENTED designers Michelle Lim and Chris Ocio

CHRIS Ocio's collection captures the essence of a geisha—luxurious tapestry and timeless beauty

RACHELLE Gervacio, soprano, will perform during the Christmas Concert in the UST Chapel.

FR. ISIDRO Abaño, O.P., co-chairperson

MARICRIS Cortezano Zabala, co-chairperson of the Christmas Concert 2009

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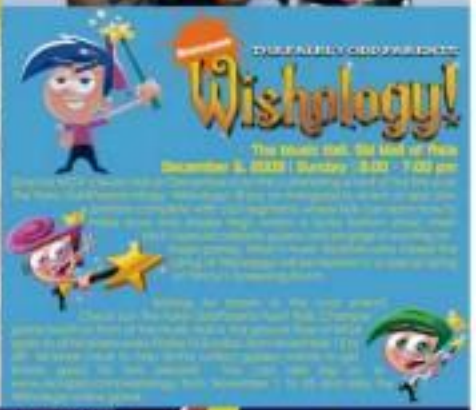
SM Mall of Asia is truly the country's top lifestyle mall with nearly a thousand retail, dining, and leisure establishments, world-class facilities and amenities, convenient services, and spacious activity areas that host the hottest events and happenings in the region. MOA has also pushed the limits of its iconic architectural feature, the Mall of Asia Globe, by turning it into a giant LED screen—now a prominent multimedia landmark welcoming shoppers to the sprawling MOA Complex. The Manila bayside and the southernmost tip of EDSA has never looked more alive before the MOA Globe LED, another unique feature to the Philippines' leading destination mall.

Sony Music Philippines, 97X, 99.5 Easy Rock, and SM Mall of Asia proudly present the colorful world of Lenka's music in a live performance at the Main Mall Atrium on December 12. Start the Christmas season right and listen to Lenka's live renditions of her catchy, layered, and mixed-making tunes from her self-titled album Lenka, which includes chart-toppers The Show and Trouble is a Friend.

The Australian songstress is currently based in the United States working on her solo musical career after a stint with the electro-rock band Decoder Ring, where she was a vocalist and keyboardist. The artsy musician, whose complicated world music influences manifest in her interesting melodies, was an actress in her native Australia and has even trained with Oscar winner Cate Blanchett. Lenka's songs have been featured in TV for Old New Girl, Ugly Betty, and Grey's Anatomy.

Pilipino Kaya Natin 'To
December 9 | 5 PM
MOA Open Concert Grounds

Singer-songwriter Jessa Zaragoza, ambassadress Ogie Alcasid, has sent his talents for Gawad Kalinga's cause and penned Pilipino Kaya Natin 'To, an empowering composition that praises the resilience of the Filipino people and urges them to move forward despite their misdeeds. Pilipino Kaya Natin 'To is also the title of the benefit concert that his and prominent OPM figures will stage on December 5. The impressive roster of musicians includes Bamboo, Basil Valdez, Carmi Martin, Chad Borromeo, Chris Cayabyab, Cinderella, Claire Dela Fuente, Cooky Chua, Dawn Zulueta, Dulce, Ebe Dancel, Eraserheads' Ely Buendia, Francis Magalona, Freddie Aguilar, Gary Granada, Gary Valenciano, Geneva Cruz, Gino Padilla, Gloc-9, Imelda Papin, Jamie Rivera, Jaya, Jed Madela, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Jett Pangan, Joey Ayala, Joey de Leon, Jolina Magdangal, Kapeng Barako, KC Concepcion, Kuh Ledesma, Kyla, Lani Misalucha, Lea Salonga, Leah Navarro, Lolita Carbon, Marco Sison, Mariel Rodriguez, Martin Nievera, Melanie Marquez, Michael Pangilinan, Michelle Madrigal, Mike Hanopol, Mitch Valdez, Monsour del Rosario, Nathalie Hart, Nina, Noel Cabangon, Noel Cabangon, Pamela Basco, Pilita Corrales, Pinkaholic Xchange, Rachel Alejandro, Rachelle Ann Go, Rico Blanco, Rivermaya, Robert Seña, Rodel Naval, Rom Baldemor, Rosanna Roces, Sampaguita, Sandwich, Sarah Geronimo, Sharon Cuneta, Smokey Mountain, Sponge Cola, Sugarfree, Sweet, Tanya Markova, Tirso Cruz III, Tootsie Guevara, Tuesday Vargas, Vehnee Saturno, Vhong Navarro, Vicor Music, Vina Morales, Wency Cornejo, Yeng Constantino, Yoyoy Villame, Zsa Zsa Padilla, and more!



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Tailoring with a twist

Clubhouse couture

Jacket, check.
Fedora, check.
Cropped jeans, check.
Oversized belt, check.

Avenue of

chairman of Jaeger and the British Fashion Council, it is about "breaking as pieces in different ways, using them as separates to dress up or down, so that a piece may have three or more end uses."

What's more, you can either top the look with jer-

ways and cardigans. Blend tailoring with something more soft and relaxed, like tailored jeans with a feminine blouse or a loose cashmere sweater. The modern tailored look is relaxed and versatile.

The key piece in edgy tailoring is the flared blazer. One good tip is to buy it a size smaller to make sure you get a fitted shoulder and waist.

For this story, I used designer Joey Samson's blazers, jackets and vests mixed and matched with different types of clothes for different occasions. Joey Samson is certainly the go-to designer when you want fresh, modern tailoring. In my opinion, he's one local couturier who knows how to blur the line in creating clothes for both men and women.

From the conference room to the cocktail lounge, edgy tailoring is the perfect look for the spirit of parties this holiday season.

Follow me on twitter.com/jennlyposon or visit www.jennlyposon.com.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

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Christmas bazaar guide for your 'balikbayan' kin

Delicacies from all over the country under one roof—from 'sumsan' to 'chicharon'

MARKET Market's all dolled up for Christmas.

By Jake Rondero
Contributor

THANKS TO ERRIN Pelaflorida winning the Citi Hero of the Year, it's cool to be a Filipino nowadays. However, I am still tongue-tied whenever I am asked by friends where to bring their foreigners and balikbayan guests for the best of what the Philippines has to offer—in one go.

Here are suggestions when to take them pasalubong shopping:

Market! Market!

Is Greenbelt's Global City Market! Market! is a one-stop shopping destination to please both the eyes and the palates of your guests. Here, you can do Divisoria-shopping in comfort.

Outside the mall, you can treat them to the best the Philippines has to offer. Check out the booths of The Department of Trade and Industry's One Town One Product province.

Each booth showcases the best of each province, from Cebu's famous dried mangoes to Bicolandia's pinya and Batanes's sweet pastillas (milk candies), cervals (deep-fried

CEBU booth

BULACAN Store

Confident glamour in holiday collection

BALANCE of practical and cutting-edge pieces.

WAREHOUSE'S CHRISTMAS 2009 Collection is all about statement dressing, with luxurious must-haves and effortless styling.

These are great pieces for the stylish, sexy and edgy fashion-forward females who come with confidence.

The definitive pieces include the diamante sequin sequin tees and jackets, draped jersey tops with a punk-rock edge, lace boyfriend combo, rebellious studded leggings, new structured umbrella skirts and crocheted pieces.

Extra stockings for the season's chilly as outfit boyfriend cardigans and jersey frock coats studded denim with street style this year.

Lace boyfriend cardigans and draped jersey tops with a punk-rock kick are definitive pieces that will make everyone want to go to the holiday soirée.

Knitwear is largely influenced by traditional tartans and the bulkier look but is also to be balanced with an exciting range of attention-grabbing and innovative designs.

The simple knitwear is super-relaxed and bold, with oversized boatneck dresses that stand out.

Even sweaters, depicting classic designs in spectacular metallic colors have jumped with spin-bling sequins, give a picture of design mastery.

Joined following is revolutionized to make every wear very including the tailored crop jacket, mini shift dress, military jacket with a glam rock edge and the new shape lapels trousers.

Boleyboots studded leggings, new structured unlined-la skirts and oversized pieces likewise take center stage with highlights on the '80s staple—the shoulder-padded sheer dress. Coats, and in particular jackets, have a sculpted feel.

Colors are hard metallics, aged golds, midnight blues and dramatic deep plums and red wine.

Warehouse stores are at Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas, La Plaza Intd and Greenbelt 5.

Filipino-flavor shopping this Christmas

From page F1

...oasis and chicharon (pork cracklings).

Bottle also feature Nueva Ecija's carabao milk and cheese (kesong puti), and Baguio's famous strawberry jams and peanut brittle.

At the Fiesta Market food court, you can sample native bites—from soup to halo-halo (a dessert).

For smorgasbord lure, you should try the Sunny Kainan's P249 lunch/dinner buffet, which serves 50 piping-hot Filipino dishes.

For desserts, you should not miss the original. The Pinang's native kakanin. (I still miss good as in dull years ago, sticky glutinous rice on a bed of coconut syrup.

Bazaar

And you think we don't have enough malls to answer our shopping needs, try bazaar-shopping on weekends with your bull-bazaars partner.

Discover underground and up-coming brands. Buy edible, info for gourmet discoveries, and hop from one booth to another honing your bargaining powers.

I was able to buy a 10-piece leather bag in cobalt blue from Nancy P. Bacolla (www.nancypbacolla.multiply.com) for a song, thanks to my terrific skill.

The owner, Irene Bacolla, is as beautiful as her name. She supervised Bea Pietro-Agulo, who I found out is now based in China.

The bag is actually three-in-one, it can be a tote, hobo satchel or body bag since it comes with different straps for different occasions.

For those bag bugs who want second-hand bags, Bagaholic is the answer. I saw its booth in a bazaar and I was selling an orange Hermes Birkin and a blue Botanic Kelly.

You may check out its store at Rose World Renaissance Hotel in Makati. And from Miss Forward (www.kkaforward.multiply.com), I bought a nice pair of Old Navy sneakers for my nephews. The booth sells mostly infants, children's, seamstresses and ladies garments at affordable prices.

Dine most check out sites bug or Paolo's stitching (www.cupcakesbyp.com)...scent stitheads. I always end up snapping my favorite cakes since it is every offensive in snapping out tantamount colors, which is now bookish dogs.

Those who love one-of-a-kind trinkets may order from Mitzi Sagarino (www.mitzi.multiply.com). Her charm bracelets and necklaces are unique, and she can even accommodate your own design.

For those who love scrapbooks and stationery, Treasured Memories by Sandrine Asensi (www.scrapbooksbysandrine.com) offers many-patterned gift cards and personalized papers. She also offers scrapbook compilation, invitations, scrapbook materials and even scrapbook buffet parties.

OLD Navy toddler sneakers for P599

The leisure season in the Philippines starts mostly around in September and goes full time November to December.

The coast is which end for a the St. James the Great Christmas Bazaar Nov. 27-28 in Cancun, Ayala Alabang Village's 7 at Motel Intercontinental, Inc. 8 at World Bazaar at the World Trade Center, and Real Discovery Bazaar.

For those who love midnight-shopping, the Fookien Fl. Mkt. in Binondo at the Bedewell Tent will be home to a variety of merchandise items, knickknacks, home accessories and other unique gift ideas.

The bazaar will be open from 12 noon to 12 midnight, Nov. 27-29, Dec. 11-13 and Dec. 18-20.

For those who love sing-out DVDs and CDs, the Grand CD/DVD sale on Quezon Avenue is in full swing every weekend, until December.

I dropped by last week on its first weekend run and did not go home empty-handed. Imagine an entire 10th floor of Universal Records full of CDs at bare as P20 and DVDs as low as P60!

I bought the entire boxed set of "10 Rock" for only P575 per version, plus a host of other original titles.

Just look for the Ground Window Center Building before Intramuros Avenue, and complete your movie and music collection.

At least your bull-bayan parents will never have a hard time deciding their brand-ed original DVDs upon reaching the Cinema counter.

YES PAQUELE! Ish perfect for your Ikoka ana, for only P350.

I Ish POPCORN leather, 3-in-1 bag. Our Ikoka likes a cross-between Tod's and Hermes models.

GAGANDA! Hermes Birkin and Kelly.

Chat Almarvez wins Ford Supermodel of the World Philippines

CHAT ALMARVEZ IS THE 2009 Ford Supermodel of the World Philippines winner.

Hosted by Christian Bautista, the modeling competition was staged by Runway Productions led by Joey and Andre Espino and saw the presence of former Ford Models CEO Eva Miguel, Miami, Angeles, Nina Cordova, Paula Bustamante, Bryn de Mesa, Tiffany Jones and Tina Manzanero hosted it one on the stage.

At the end, it was 16-year-old, 5'9 stunner Almarvez La-pena—born into like supermodel Diane Xiongsolito—who won the one-year modeling contract with CoiKatrin's International Models Philippines and a round-trip ticket (with gradual necessary) to New York, to represent the country at the Ford Supermodel of the World finals for a shot at $250,000 worth of modeling contracts from Ford Models.

CHAT Almarvez, 2009 Ford Supermodel of the World Philippines winner (3rd from left) with Runway Productions' executive producer/director Joey Espino, Ford Models/Kaila Ford and Runway Productions' executive producer Andie Espino

Electric scent box helps relieve stress

THE HOLIDAY SEASON. A chance and refreshing point will do wonders to my house as well. So, whether to throw a dinner, energy boosters or mood enhancers.

There are various options for home scents but among household and restaurant offices, the humble and inexpensive of Aircons comes into. ma pit Air Purifier and Humidifier have eclipsed oil burners, scented candles and aromatizers.

The Aircons unit is so electric scent box the size of a small fish bowl. It works when Aircons owners is added to water and the liquid is switched continuously to scent the room. It is highly effective and economic alternative which is similar to the wattage of an energy-saving light bulb.

The heavy-duty aircons to suit the Aircons unit makes it possible to enjoy several hours of continuous scent, safely and efficiently, unlike other options.

Some aromatherapy experts do not recommend burning oil or incense because most are poorly constructed and give off unhealthy fumes and soot.

In homes, Aircons effectively reduces household odors and helps keep the room smelling clean and fresh.

Aircons comes in an easily transitioned, sale inside home ultraviolet bacterial irregularities, with no attended added, making them non-combustible and safe to use.

The oil is blended for the Aircons unit so it can be used with water efficiently. Its basic blend of lavender, lemon, citronella, peppermint, sweet orange, eucalyptus, and rosemary, all come in 100 and 250ml bottles.

Aircons is available at kiosks in selected SM Markets, Mall of Asia, The Market at Uni World Alabang, Megamall, Hypermart Pasig, The Podium, Robinsons Place Manila and Metro East; and at selected Office Warehouse outlets and Boos Furniture in Alabang Town Center.

Check out the aircons booth at the Mall Edward Bataan at the Fun on Dec. 9-6, 12 and 20.

Celebrate the Spirit of Sharing at THE CHAIN MARTS'

christmas sale

Sale Period:
November 27 to December 13, 2009

Makati Supermart | Cash & Carry | Uni Mart

Barbecd

Century Tuna

Cadbury

White Wings

Celtic

Jell-O

Kraft

Pringles

French's

Del Monte

San Marino

Goya

Golden Valley

Pillsbury

Betty Crocker

Meat

Knife

W.E.

O Shoe

Dragon

Lindsay

Lucky Me

Payless

Nissin

Oishi

Clover Chips

Lipton

Lady's Choice

Selecta

Absolute

Summit

RC Cola

Anlene Gold

Ensure

Gain

Milo

UFC

Libby's

Reynolds Wrap

Kitchen Magic

Sonicare

Kami

Harmony

Zonrox

Modess

Johnson's

Colgate

Palmolive

Pantene

Perfect Coat

Excel

Dencex

Surf

Green Cross

Parasol

Verasil

Easy On

Magnolia

Mop & Glo

Campbell's

P43.25

P71.95

P138.95

P71.95

Skippy

P107.95

P123.50

Prego

P133.75

Ocean Spray

P84.95

- Ya Pears P42.95/kg • Calamansi P28.25/kg • Chico P53.95/kg • Durian P84.95/kg
- Cavendish Banana P49.50/kg • Washington Red Apple Extra Fancy P95.75/kg
- Fuji Apple P68.25/kg • Tropical Gold Pineapple P57.00/kg • Kiwi-Kiwi P53.95/kg
- Red Lady Papaya P26.15/kg • Dole Grapes Crimson Seedless P142.50/kg
- Marble Potato P52.00/kg • Green Papaya P15.75/kg • Sabi Cebu P26.25/kg
- Sampaloc Pangalipang P52.50/kg • Spring Onion P108.95/kg • Camote P26.25/kg
- Ginger P78.75/kg • Taiwan Pechay P116.95/kg • Native Pechay P68.25/kg
- Upo P64.95/kg • Okra P45.15/kg • Mogbuli P84.95/kg • Radish P68.25/kg

Makati Supermart Alabang • Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City • Tel. 842-1401, 809-2258 • Store Hours: 8:30 am - 9:00 pm

Greenhills • Greenhills Shopping Center • Tel. 721-6582, 721-9731 • Store Hours: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | CASH & Carry Supermarket • North Expressway cor. Andrei St., New Zaniga Subd. Novaliches, Quezon City • Tel. 930-1500, 443-0329, 443-3489 • Store Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Cocktail hour

SM Department Store showcases **Cococabana**, offering a frenzy of spritely colors that brighten the season

Blue fizz

Gussy up in refreshing eyelet with a blazing shade of azure

Yellow haze

Sunny canary never fails to brighten up any day

Pink passion

Mix fiery shades of pink and top off with a cool aqua finish

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Why these beads, charms, trinkets, bags are good-news gifts

By Cherie V. Moral

THE LEARNING Center's sugar-bag charms that double as napkin rings. For left, a hand-painted Jadan D'occupied newspaper bag by Pandacan

ON A TYPICAL DAY, they would be huddled, some stringing beads, a few weaving the trailer locks, the rest picking labels on the group's signature silver gift cards.

It's an assembly-line production system not unlike a craft factory, but amid mere appearances surroundings, and under more special circumstances.

These are adult students of The Learning Center (TLC) Inc. in Merville Park Subdivision, Parañaque City. TLC is a special education center that has work-study programs for adult students that train them in vocational skills, giving them opportunities for independence and livelihood.

The school was set up in 1975, and now has up to 20 students in the workshop, or roughly half of the school's enrollment.

Special skills

"We teach them skills to give them an end point so they don't remain students," says Linda Bautista, TLC's executive director. "Apart from teaching them vocational skills, it's also part of their therapy."

Most of TLC's students are challenged with autism, mental retardation, Down syndrome, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, or other developmental and behavioral conditions. Students are children and adults, with those aged 18 and above in skills workshops.

Bead bag charms that double as napkin rings, fancy zipper pulls, key rings, book markers and mobile phone charms are among the crafts. Though most students come from middle-class families who pay tuition, each gets a stipend from product sales.

Bestsellers

"Our goal is for most of the students to attend the school for free," says Bautista. Some can afford the tuition, but "they're still marginalized since they're not in mainstream schools."

TLC is one of several partners of Gifts & Graces that

ALEXIS by the Families and Children for Empowerment and Development Foundation, a group of women in Pandacan creates recycled newspaper totes such as this, hand-painted with Audrey Hepburn's image.

Gifts & Graces taps marginalized communities for meaningful gifts this Christmas

Trade Foundation Inc. (tel. 7582525, email info@giftsandgraces.com), an NGO that promotes the livelihood programs of marginalized sectors, helping them develop and market their products here and overseas.

An urban-poor community in Pandacan creates one of Gifts & Graces' best-selling items: bags made of recycled newspaper hand-painted with images of iconic women like Audrey Hepburn, Marie Bells, Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy Onassis. The bag initiative is so popular the community now has a backlog of orders, according to Gifts & Graces executive director Lora Gregorio M. Perez.

A group of former migrant workers in Japan, under the Empowered Action for Women Network, also creates shawls, clothes, bags and other items from batik and handwoven fabrics. Extra bags are also brought in from the provinces by the Convent of the Holy Spirit.

At Gifts & Graces, TLC has another product that indi-

True-blue

In her own way, Jackie Aquino-Gavino stylishly and substantially adds to the sheen of the famous name

JACKIE AQUINO-Gavino—first daughter, some should get you a huge hint—comes from a true-blue and illustrious line of achievers, movers and shakers, whether in politics, business or media. But one is so blessed by the expectations of such a famous name, Jackie is more than modest, poised and successful in her own, quiet way.

Her only career plan revolved around hotel and restaurant management, where her heart had conveyed by her mom Jove Antino. three sos. Jeni Aquino, headed someone he could trust to work for him in the hotels, she readily agreed to help him.

Her easy charm and natural people-skills also came in handy when she briefly moved into show biz, as indecision, perhaps, that was in the genes, as her father also did theater work in school. Her mother, Pepsi Member, came from a strong line of educators.

Thus, it seems to be no surprise that Jackie is an owners of Cymbeyes, a play, music and arts pre-school where she also teaches.

Her regular work includes her weekly talk show "She Said, She Said," which covers inspiring stories and has interviews on Destiny Cable. She also sits on the board of the Metro and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), where she owns TV programs and movies, and the Optical Media Board (OMB), where she runs media products on discs.

On the side, she does modeling and public relations work for Chynee Marfil, Sofia Thompson Severna and Shamaine Marcelo, clothing only clients whose products she believes in. To balance her busy work schedule, she tries to exercise in Instructions, Pilates or yoga.

Despite the demands of work, Jackie never fails to give her daughter and husband Khali her loving attention. She credits Mark for also always being there for Bea's daughters, and for being supportive of his career and other endeavors. In fact, he is a "fan" and a severe patron of her accomplishments.

Her favorite wardrobe at home have no shirts because shorts ensemble paired with tailored jackets to classic polo shirts with collar and cuff details, and to dresses with mutual sleeves.

She believes that classic shirts need not be all the time paired with the usual bottoms. coat jackets with the usual T's. Her mutual of pearls is a staple, as it can take her from day to night. Denim used to dressy.

But at the end of the day, whatever she wears, it is her truth, her steadfast values and her integrity that have seen her through the challenges of her career and her life. These she will choose anytime over fame and bellaire.

SLEEVE TRICK
NAVY blue belted dress with sheer pleated sleeves by Russel accessories dress by Jacqlin

THE WORKING CLASS

Bea Silayan Go, Contributor

STRAIGHTLINER
PRINTED gray long sleeve top by Russel, backless pencil skirt by Debenhams

BREAK CRISP MONOTONY
STRIPED blue polo and blazer by Wise Wardrobe, navy blue shorts by Michael Kors and blue shoes by Jacqlin

SLIMMING
SHOCKED nude sleeveless dress by DKNY and black dress by Jacqlin

Anna Sui now designs flip-flops

By Irene C. Pena

Her first creation for Fitflop are limited-edition ankle boots called 'Shakoha'

FLIPPERS HAVE BECOME PASS UP Fitflops, the "flip-flop with a gym built in," since it was introduced last year, said brand manager Melody Wahlin.

American founder Marnie Shipton was recently in the country with some good news: Anna Sui is coming up with a Fitflop collection, so expect fun and funky styles. The company also donated a million pesos to victims of Tropical Storm Ondoy.

"The Anna Sui line is supposed to be out February to March next year," said Shipton. "She is a fashion genius. She has an idea, and it is wonderful! But she will be co-creating Fitflops."

Sui's first design for the brand are limited-edition ankle boots called "Shakoha." The boots are made of soft suede with star studs and basic stitched details, and come in chocolate, jet black and teal shades. "Shakoha" has Fitflop's Microwobbleboard midsole that diffuses pressure spots for ultimate comfort, but with more structure design. The line will be available in December.

Sui, an American designer, is known for her pop, kitsch fashion style. She also has her own fragrance and cosmetics line. Her fashion house includes Style Line for fashion-savvy teens and Anna Sui Mini for baby tots.

"We are excited because she already had a pair when we approached her. She is a fan and was happy to make her models for Fitflop," Shipton said.

Figure-enhancing

Since its launch in 2007 in the UK and the US, Fitflop (www.fitflop.com) has sold over 4 million pairs in 44 countries by patented Microwobbleboard technology claims to help tone and firm calf, leg and butt muscles as the wearer walks, giving him a better body workout.

FITFLOPS founder and billionaire entrepreneur Marnie Shipton donated P1 million pesos to calamity-victims on her recent visit to the Philippines.

"Women from 20 to 70 years old wear them especially during summer because they're more comfortable than sandalwiches," said Shipton. Working women and engineers are big fans as well, added Wahlin.

No endorsers

Hollywood celebrities like Oprah and Julianne Moore have been spotted wearing Fitflops although there won't be new endorsers.

"Because you wouldn't know if they'll be in celebrity-mad" the end of Hollywood celebs, rather laugh. Shipton says in the know-it-business line "may and they products are all over HK before she mentioned the interview.

Fitflop has new designs every six months. Upcoming styles for summer include metallic joins with dimensions for women, full wedding sandals for men and the kids' line.

"Elevator" is the fastest-selling style globally. It has fully sequined straps that come in gold, silver, gray and black—perfect for glamming up a casual outing. The latest model is "Forever," the first slip-on Fitflop with no zipper.

Some people may find Fitflop comes again because it sounds for the same price as a regular sandal, but Wahlin said it's worth the investment. The ergonomically shoes your pair with mild soap and an old toothbrush, and do not immerse in water.

Fitflop is available in boots and shoes outlets in Mines Manila and provincial malls. (Visit www.fitflop.multiply.com for more listings.)

SHOCKING limited-edition boots by Anna Sui will be locally available starting this weekend. But will design Fitflop sandals to be launched next year.

THE ELECTRA style with fully sequinned straps in a gilded lamé color

FRIENDLY a lot those who want their Fitflops without toe-posts. Its comes in comfy, easy-to-wear sandals, others

FIVE-STRING bag charm by T.I.C. Bakes, Grace Kelly-inspired mini paper mache by Pandoramemories

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Why these. . .

From page C1

valued and corporate clients can choose from. Since there is not one typical beauty, nail consultant notes changes and requires a minimum of 24 pieces.

"We always say every product is made by different special hands," notes Bradista. Since every student has a different capability, hence the assembly-line system, each bag charm had comes out of T.I.C is a collaborative effort.

"We focus on different strengths of the desks," she adds.

It follows the institution's statement. "Our assembly-line system is a testament that each of us, no matter what limitations, can contribute the best part of ourselves to any endeavor."

Alabang Town center gives the community a chance to share this Christmas

ALABANG TOWN CENTER, the premier shopping center at the heart of southern Manila, interprets the season of giving with the launch of its Christmas campaign, A Chance to Share.

While it has been part of the Alabang Town Center's traditions to hold activities for the holidays, this year's campaign is a special pioneering event because the Town will turn a center for giving in a community-wide effort involving companies, schools, churches, villages and the shopping center's merchants and local partners.

The evening started with an al fresco cheerful dinner at Boulevard's that brought together people from the different organizations supporting the campaign. Key representatives from companies like Honda, Isuzu and Timezone, partner schools like Woodcrest and De La Salle Zobel, and the brand's stores had the chance to meet and get to know each other over scrumptious, relaxed dinner.

The official launch was announced during an intimate concert at the Gota de Leche Music Lounging. Celebrity Beatrice, who backed the celebration with a performance of songs from his new album, "Reminisce Revisited." It was topped by the lighting of the Alabang Town Center's Christmas tree.

"Alabang Town Center is the community's second home, and expanded in the shopper's home options from home primarily by the Alabang and Muntinlupa communities. The mall endeavors to contribute and give back to the community by engaging in CSR projects. A Chance to Share campaign will likewise engage our shoppers to actively participate in our donation drive for the three charitable foundations," says deputy general manager Lolo Beatrice.

Bea Romero, marketing manager of Honda Cars Philippines, expresses that while they have always had corporate social responsibility programs, they are glad to be part of the community-wide campaign.

"Companies have to take an even more active role now, especially in the communities we are in," she says.

President and general manager of Timezone Kelly Frias affirms this, adding that he personally knows people who were affected by the recent natural calamities in Mindanao/Ondoy.

"It touches a chord," he says, "because we're very close to it."

The A Chance to Share launch formed off a season long donation drive beginning Nov. 15 to schools, companies and communities within the area (call 8422750 or check out the Christmas Corner near CBP).

Donors are encouraged to give at least two goods from the wish list of the three Muntinlupa-based beneficiaries—Tulay na Pag-Asa Foundation, SOS Children's Village and the Mustang Kalinga Foundation.

The charity wish list includes food (milk, rice grains, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar and canned goods) and toiletries (bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush) to help sustain the day-to-day needs of the resident children. Shoppers can also drop off their donations at the Alabang Town Center Christmas Corner and Greetings located at the Activity Center from Dec. 1-31.

The idea behind the campaign is to make giving easy and reap the collective efforts of the community. And because those who give also receive, A Chance to Share will culminate in a special concert featuring Lolo Beatrice with Apostol Singers and the Philharmonia Orchestra on Dec. 20 at the Activity Center.

CHRISTMAS favorites serenades Alabang Town Center shoppers during the Christmas launch.

ALABANG Town Center deputy general manager Lolo Beatrice officially launches AFC's "A Chance to Share" Christmas campaign

BAUTISTA sings with Esmeralda!

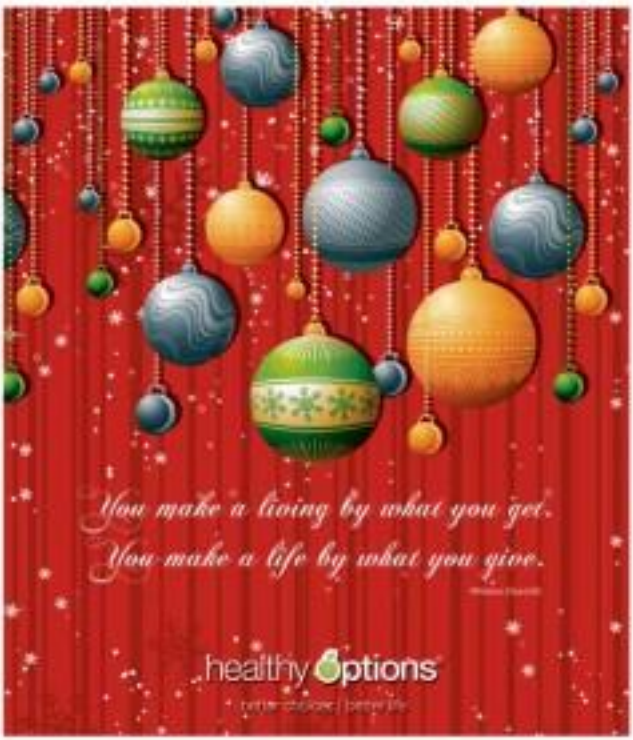
BAUTISTA with partners from the community-beneficiaries SOS Children's Village & Planting Kalinga, Schools De La Salle Zobel & Parañaque, Honda Alabang and Isuzu Alabang, New Life Christian Center, Essentials Christian Community, Avanza's Department Store and Timezone

BAUTISTA and Timezone president Kelly Frias

SOS children's village representatives Baco Hojas and Mildred Erroy

MUSTANG Kalinga Foundation representatives Amado Beltran and Pam Ocampo Ruth Bautista

"A CHANCE to Share" Christmas Campaign partners from Honda and Isuzu Jane Dionisio, Rebecca Romero and Joan Gatue



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CELEBRATING 13 YEARS

High-glamour holidays

HOME OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP DESIGNERS pull together the party parties look into Christmas.

Dino Crespo exudes elegance with evening manners for gala occasions. Dino Crespo-maker with sweetheart dresses in dazzling emerald, sapphire and ruby.

Classic black and white are also on top of the designer style list. Rhod Llanes and Rhett Aventurillo glamour-up the look-of-the-Bold Black dress. And Bernice's jacquard-fit can shimmer and shine through the night.

Or Rudee's white cloak glitters while his friends of Asian celebrities feminine and feminine with corset, soft pieces.

The collection is available at The Boutique of tailor Mr. Dupan

HOLIDAY ELEGANCE. Pure poly-shimmery and sheer-sleeved coat over black rayon bodysuit with a Line leather belt from Dino Crespo

Nikon COOLPIX

An amazing breakthrough in boxing history.
Congratulations Manny.

COOLPIX S8000

An amazing breakthrough from Nikon

COCKTAIL HOUR. One-shoulder organza top with black rayon tulle skirt and purple poly-shimmery band from Dino Crespo

WHITE HOT NIGHT. White detail satin crop blouse paired with shorts by Po Barba for Vitamin

LAZY IN RED. Draped asymmetrical taffeta dress from Dino Crespo with the top embellished with red stones, silver sequins and pearls

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LIFESTYLE *Fashion&Beauty*

Hollywood stars honor fashion house creative head

GUCCI CREATIVE DIRECTOR Frida Giannini recently received a Design Star Honoree award at the 26th annual Fashion Group International Night of Stars dinner held at Cipriani Wall Street.

Actor James Franco and Grammy award-winning artist Mary J. Blige handed Giannini the prestigious award.

Blige wore a fitting "feminine" 2010 black tight-cuffed long-hair-to-gown outfit paired leather harness, black high-heeled sandal with metal embroidery and black suede clutch with silver heel in detail.

Franco wore a Fall/Winter 2009-2010 black New Mandarin tuxedo with white dress shirt, black silk tie and black leather lace-up cowboys.

Founded in Florence in 1921, Gucci is a leading luxury fashion brands. Its products include leather goods, handbags, small leather goods, and footwear; shoes; ready-to-wear; silks; timepieces and fine jewelry.

In the Philippines, Gucci is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) and is at Rustan's Makati, Greenbelt 5, Alabang Town Center and Eastwood Mall.

EVEN Rachel Weisz, Giannini and Blige

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A LIPAK

BY JESS ARENA

PUGAD BABOY

BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOINSHOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

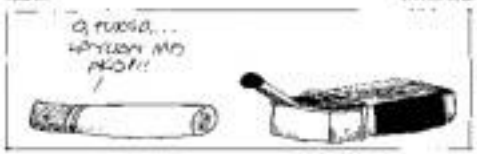
BY STEVEN PABAGNAS

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

FLUXOX

BY FABIA COLL



BEH

BY DANIEL SAELTON

ATOMO AND VISSOY

BY ORA-GASCELLANO

KUBO MACHINE

BY RAMIS ARENA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

THIS WEEK TODAY: You're dynamic and physically active! For those times when you... For the to to when the others in these and family issues which you... You have a healthy appetite, a friendly and personal manner, but you're not in a hurry at least. You have gradual values. It takes change could take place in the next you, perhaps as significant as what occurred around 2008.

Celebrated: Jon Hamm, actor; Bruce Lee, martial artist; Alexa Pitt, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 20): Social acceptance is now open. Relationships are how strong now! So get outside. Go or plan a weekend getaway. Take a deep breath. Take a class.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel anxious. Are concerns about shared property, inheritances, or finances causing you stress? Bring your love buddy with someone with an interest.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You need more time. Slow down! Remember the time to be busy. Now now you is a gain of you. Protect your energy. Get more exercise. Remember control.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Become more open and flexible. Important at work and at home, get down to it! Tie the knots, give yourself the right tools and equipment to do a great job.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Watch your money. You have a tendency to be frugal. Your efforts and romance now have an edge. Be sure to plan for the best time with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Home, family and close friends demands be put your attention now. Be sure to communicate with family and especially parents, with the significant ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a busy and calling, attending and dealing, your emotional standing, your financial standing make this a busy week. Be sure to plan for small things that accumulate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have an over rush. Time to vary variety. Be sure to plan for what you're going to spend your savings on. Don't you ANY Many of you, however, are spending way of money as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be sure people are aware of your plans. Be excited! Is you very make the most of this. Romance is under way. Be sure to plan for a new home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Continue to work alone or work be mind the comes right now. Be sure to plan time a lot of thinking to do. In a few weeks' you personal your birthday to birthday I of hope. What do you want?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This probably is one of the best times of the year to be born. Be sure to plan for the future. Social ideas abound. Be sure to plan for new gadgets. Avoid over indulgence.

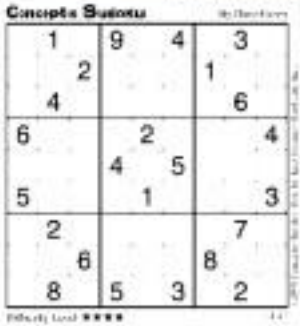
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Money, your wants, needs and attitudes are now. Romance is in the air. Be sure to plan for possible fights. You might as well with friends with a smile.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
For strategies see www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

5	7	9	6	2	8	4	3	1
3	2	1	9	4	7	5	6	8
6	8	4	1	5	3	9	2	7
9	1	5	7	6	4	3	8	2
4	3	6	2	1	9	7	5	6
7	6	2	8	3	5	1	9	4
2	5	3	4	7	6	8	1	9
1	9	7	5	8	2	6	4	3
8	4	6	3	9	1	2	7	5

Positivi-tees

New Folded & Hung collection elevates doodles to art

By Jemi Sgarroza

REMEMBER THOSE DAYS BACK in school when you'd doodle on your notebook paper to pass the time? And your teacher caught you and told such useless scribbling wouldn't amount to anything?

Well, think again. Beyondsys, with local art groups like We Will Shoulder and the runaway online graphic T-store, Thatsit-box.com, it looks like all that creative doodling is the first leading to juvenile endeavor.

As graphic T-shirts have become today's wearable gazette, many artists subscribe confidence to solid colors to their wardrobe while expressing themselves with random text.

Of course, who else could personalize such creativity and expressive style than Wendy's new living fashion store, This Way? The way's currently young innovative and high-energy apparel/biz has collaborated with Folded & Hung once again with its house designs, this time with its inspired doodles.

Using some spontaneous doodles, curious positive messages with no bite, life and more.

Call them "positivi-tees," FHW's latest collection translates happy messages and words such as "Yum," "Why?" "Breathe," and "Makes me happy."

The fun collection comes in various colors, from purple to aluminum-tee, electric white, bright red and Olympic blue. They've gone to duo as casual street wear paired with jeans, or dressed up with interesting jackets and hoodies.

The limited edition This Way Graphic Tees are now available in Folded & Hung stores.

Follow me on http://twitter.com/jemisgarroza or visit www.jemisgarroza.com.

Yum...

Breathe...

Reflect...

Hip, sexy, cheeky footwear

"STYLE, NOT HISTORY HAS FOUR you, is Joy. The design should be simple, clean and modern." With these values in mind, Joey Mercado, the founder of Joy Mercado, have given a whole new definition of style with the launch of Signature Mercados.

Known for its timeless quality, Signature Mercados high-lights her 42nd sexy footwear creation with a classic designers with fixed seasons. The attention paid to color, texture and perfect makes their shoes a major statement in fashion—enabling any woman to go from morning meetings to cocktails at The Mercury with the same flick of a lipstick.

What started in New York as a small studio of homemade designs, Signature Mercados has grown into a global brand that really garnered instant popularity. With their chunky designs, the brand steadily took hold of the shoe market, expanding from New York to across the globe.

Spring 2010 was a sweet, sweet year as well for Signature Mercados with their launch of the original kitten-heeled flip-flop. With a nude to the classic summer favourite, these flip-flops became a sensation with shoppers sold out each size.

With more stores opening from Los Angeles to Tokyo, Signature Mercados continues to delight style mavens from different parts of the globe.

Signature Mercados is only exclusively available at Rustan's Makati.

WEDGE Sandal

STUDDED Madison Sandal

RIBBONS ribbon-cutting honors are SM president Teresita Sy-Coson, Rosario, Cavite Mayor Jesse Bautista, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, SM Prime Holdings Inc. president Hans Sy, Director-at-large Bobby Lim Antonio Tuplo, Fabiolist Sy Hop, Jose Emilio Abaya, Rio Mayor Jess Rosal Hernandez and SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy

Mall opens 4th outlet in booming Cavite

IF YOU ARE EASILY CHEERTED by Cavite's new SM Prime Holdings recently opened its 56th regional, SM City Rosario, also its fourth mall in the bustling province. The holiday spirit was evident as thousands of shoppers packed the mall's doors, as the SM builders, SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy and SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy opened the door to the first wave of customers.

A simple blessing was held the day before with Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle leading the ceremony of Mass. The rites followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Rep. Jose Emilio Abaya, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Rosario Mayor Jesse "Boying" Bautista, Vice Mayor Jose Boyet "Jing-Jing" Hernandez, Bishop Tagle, Teresita Hans and Herbert Sy, and SM president Tessie Sy-Coson. SM founder and chairman Henry Sy Sr. also welcomed the guests.

Located on a 5.5-ha property in Barangay Tulay in Rosario, SM City Rosario now serves customers in the north and southwestern parts of Cavite and neighboring provinces as well. With its modern design, play of graphics and colors, and breathtaking circular atrium, the mall is envisioned to be a popular landmark in the rapidly developing area.

The 161,000-sq m mall has the SM Department Store and lifestyle pennanchit for boutiques and more. It also has fifth-anniversary favorite SM Appliance Center, Ace Hardware and Watsons, as well as fashion boutiques like Bench, Rocket and Hang, Human, Penshoppe, Adidas, Pink Box and Pink and Blue Koala. It likewise has a National Bookstore branch, sports stores like Toby's, jewelry stores like Lhuillier and Goldcrest Jewelry, and optical shops like Ideal Vision and Executive Optical.

Dollar customers will enjoy Intercart cafés, computer stores and telco shops, while kids can have fun in arcades like Quantum and Time's World. Movie lovers can enjoy Mediacast Blockbusters and homegrown hits in its state-of-the-art cinemas.

There will be a lot of eating out for foodies and friends in SM City Rosario's Pendesoft with numerous food chains like BFC, Pizza Hut and Jollibee Donuts and Fil-ipino food outlets like Jollibee, Max's, Savory Chicken, Greenwich, Mang Inasal, Super Bake-rite and Red Ribbon.

SM City Rosario also banks and service stores that will truly make it a one-stop destination. There are beauty shops, cellphone outlets, dental and medical clinics and service shops. There will also be an SM Business Center and SPMC lounge, as well as 600 parking slots, with an additional 50 for motorcycles.

Apart from SM City Rosario, there other malls—SM City Bacoor, SM City Dasmariñas, and SM Supermarket Molino—are located in key areas in the province. SM's presence in four strategically located areas in the province positions Cavite's growth and market potentials. The rapidly developing province has become a favored location of many industrial and commercial businesses, as well as residential subdivisions.

FIRST wave of shoppers during the opening of SM City Rosario

SM PRESIDENT Teresita Sy-Coson welcomes Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi and Rep. Jose Emilio Abaya

KENNY

Ultra-comfy women's shoes

WOMEN'S SHOE BRAND Naturalizer introduces NS footwear in latest collection featuring five exclusive shoe designs that offer lightness for all-day comfort, breathability, flexibility, cushioning to energize soles and support the entire foot, and soft lined through extra pads.

With insoles designed for great flexibility, feather-weight outsoles that lighten every step, ergonomic heel and toe shapes for balance, extra cushioning and breathable linings to keep the feet cool, the NS footwear collection will be loved by women everywhere.

The Naturalizer NS footwear is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Retail Specialist Inc. and sold at the following branches: Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center Makati, Tiffanies, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, The Block SM North EDSA, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Gateway Mall Pasadena Store, Festival Mall, Marquee Mall Angeles, SM City Cabanatuan de Oro, SM City Davao, SM City Cebu, Ayala Center Cebu and Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga.

HEAVEN

THEARCH

TIANI

Bags for stylish mobility

ANNE

KIPLING'S NOW 10001, IT City Travel and Vintage collections star fashion and function for women on the go.

Here's to go-anywhere shoulder bag, the Adam L, is ideal for work stuff, but even better for shopping trips.

For a distinctly retro silhouette, the Tiani M is a trendy alternative to the bowling bag, while the Teagan is big enough for travel essentials. The completely collapsible Marlon, meanwhile, is wearably personalized.

If bags have to dye-inspired prints that have reference the '80s. They're available in the Tiani M and Anne M, cool and casual all-rounders, as well as the cool Ryder L.

The City Travel collection is refined and elegant in dark black. The lightweight Tiani Anne E is sophisticated. The Jacki is perfect for important work documents, while the convenient Eugenia is an ingenious trolley bag that slides over the case handles to hold all its flight favorites.

Practical styles dominate the Vintage kind. The graphic Hinkston is a roomy duffle bag that's reversible for mobility. Another great-looking trolley bag is the Izaks in jungle graphics.

The collections are now available at the Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa The Block, Robinson's Place Manila, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.

Manila gets a taste of Iluko Christmas

WESSO ILOCOS NORTE WILL be singing Ray-Ayo Globusman in Ilocos at the boodwolf fest on Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

"Ray-Ayo" is Ilocano for "celebrate." It is the Museum's first fundraiser in Manila and promises to take guests through a virtual and entertaining tour of Ilocandia.

The experience starts with guests entering a huge antique door typical of age-old Ilocano cathedrals. They are then transported to a virtual town plaza, the center of all activity, as the scene goes through the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations.

Once at the plaza, the show starts with the town's Mass. Following it are a typical Market Day and a tour of the best Ilocano tourist spots. Everything culminates back at the town plaza for the Lantern Parade. Throughout the virtual day tour, a band, choral performances, dances and a fashion show featuring Abel Ilocs will entertain the guests.

And what tour of Ilocos would be complete without an Ilocano feast, here called "Ilocanen cuisine," consisting of traditional Ilocano dishes interpreted in the way that only Glenda Barretto (of Via Mare) and Claudia Reyes can.

The food trip promises to be an incomparable experience, featuring dishes such as Tapiq (Ilocano Jumex), Bumbbbod, Otoner (Ilocano in Iloc), Bagnet wrapped in young mustard leaves and rice wrappers, Adobo Dinapigan Skewerettes, Chicken Milk Soup in Terracotta Cups, and Pinpot Pospos in Pan Horseshoe, to name a few.

Solving home the experience, a bazaar featuring Ilocano crafts and delicacies will be open to the public from 10 a.m.–10 p.m. The bazaar will feature the famous Abel Iloco handwoven fabrics, antique Ilocano baskets, and delicacies such as Empanadang Iloko, Inabang Iloco, Cornick and Bagnet.

The proceeds of Ray-Ayo and the bazaar will benefit outreach programs of the Museo Iloco Ilocos. The museum was privately designed to instill a sense of pride for the roots of the young Ilocanos. Tapayans, bangs and other relics of the province, it aims to create, among both the young and old, a feeling of belonging for their ancestral homeland.

Tickets are at P3,000, which covers food, open bar and the show. Call Janet Ming at 8722 0569/69.

Visit www.museoiloco.com/GOTLOS.

ANACHRONISTIC Tabacalera enhance one drama into door to the Basic provincial capital was rejected into the Museo. The Tabacalera warehouse in Laoag, a plain rectangular brick structure built in the 19th century, is one of a chain of rich warehouses that dot Ilocos Norte.

Claudine now a Kapuso

CLAUDINE Barretto, one of the five homegrown stars of ABS-CBN, has signed up with GMA 7. This is a major coup—she is not to sign, bill a drama anthology pictured after "Magkakabalikan" and Bagsakan share "Wowowee Mo Boys."

Reported from Diego Jr.

LIVING Stars

Lifestyle Editor G. Nolasco

Book the best seats now. CATS tickets will be sold only in Citi stores until December 6, 2009.

citi

'Direk' paints his devotion

By Roxane Sico Diego Jr.

GMA 7 DIRECTOR LOUIE Ignacio's second art exhibit, "Ave Maria," celebrates his devotion to the Madonna and Child.

Ignacio defines trusting in is advertising; paints during weekends in his Pagsanjan, Laguna rest home, in a studio-built under a towering image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The 20 pieces in the new

SHARE: ⟨⟩

NOW PLAYING

"Dito'y isa na-really na-kind kasi," says actor-filmmaker Joseph Estrada. Page 11

PHOTO BY BOY SANTOS

All-star CNN show; Nov. 21 at Kodak Theater, LA

HOLLYWOOD STARS came out when MP3 Elton John's talk-show was named "CNN Hero of the Year."

RED CARPET

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IMAX

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TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 A CHRISTMAS CAROL / TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 NINJA ASSASSIN
5 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

6 A CHRISTMAS CAROL (DIGITAL 3D)
7 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
8 CINEMA ONE: WAITED BORDER
9 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
10 2012

MANILA

1 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
5 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
7 2012

METRO EAST

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
5 NINJA ASSASSIN
6 2012
7 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
8 ANO TAWONG PABLO

NOVALICHES

1 NINJA ASSASSIN
2 2012
3 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 NINJA ASSASSIN
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
4 2012

MOVIEWORLD

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(only one registration entry per SMS will be allowed)

Promo Duration: Nov. 19 to Dec. 11, 2009
Deadline of submission of entry: December 11, 2009
Raffle Draw Date: December 14, 2009

STA. ROSA

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 2012
3 NINJA ASSASSIN
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

LIPA

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 2012

DASMARIÑAS

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 2012
3 NINJA ASSASSIN
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

STARMILLS

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
5 2012
6 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

MUÑOZ

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 2012

ANGELES

1 2012
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

TALISAY

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 2012
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

DUMAGUETE

1 SUNOD
2 THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
3 IGOR

BACOLOD

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
5 2012
6 NINJA ASSASSIN

ILOILO

1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
2 NINJA ASSASSIN
3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
5 2012
6 ANO TAWONG PABLO

GENSAN

1 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
2 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
3 2012
4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

ILOCOS NORTE

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MOVIEWORLD

JOAQUIN in the bedroom. There are mirrors, model cars and souvenirs to fill a children's museum

JOAQUIN And's framed bird cells collection

HOME BOOS

But most interesting piece in the house is the dining table

Derek' paints ...

From page 6

collection were done in a style he calls "sacrisomd" elaborated. "I just poured acrylic paint on canvas and images of the Madonna and Child were formed," he said.

Days before the exhibit opening on June 7, some of paintings have been bought by celebrity-friends singers Regine Velasquez and Faye Fernandez and designer Edwin Tan. The exhibit runs until Jun. 28 at the Art dan Gallery in SM Megamall.

Proceeds will go to the artist's pet charities—Child Haus (for pediatric cancer patients), Golden Acres (for elderly women), Xaipan Foundation and the Arts Community-Church of Baldito, Aklan.

The Arts chair is particularly close to his heart. "I was having classes in Boracay and heard these beautiful voices. I thought it was a CD. I was surprised to find out it was a

LOUIS' Apostle in his studio

choir," he recalled.

He first saw the choir, composed of shepherd indigenous children, in his many solo shows. "Prayer to Bicol" which won the Gold prize at the New York TV Festivals last year.

"I hope to give them more of opportunities," Ignacio said.

Open-mic nights is family tradition

By Marinel R. Cosa
Photos by Jon Cortes Pamintuan

ACTOR-DIRECTOR Pedro "Joaquin" Valdez said there was nothing unusual about the impromptu parties hosted by his family at their Quezon City home while he was growing up.

"We called them gatherings, open-mic nights," said Joaquin as he referred Living Stars into the 1,000-sq.m., two-story residence. "There were no invitations. We simply invited friends. There were hard set-ups. Ours is a musically inclined family. Every member can sing, although I was the only one who pursued singing professionally."

Joaquin had done public almost for his performances in the Tanghalang Pilipino musical production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." He then appeared in "The Young Jing" and "Joseph the Dreamer," produced by the same director-actress. He was also part of the singing group 17:28 in the 1990s.

Joaquin (the filmmaker was first Short Filmmaker at the 2nd New Beijing International Movie Festival in China last year for his semi-movie "Bahog," the is currently busy directing TV announcements and working on the screenplay for the film "Lumpia" and "Hotong."

Joaquin said his most favorite choice organ—next to the living area—has helped him learn how to sing and dance the tango and bossa nova.

The house features a combination of Mexican and Spanish design, said Joaquin. His dad Butch designed it himself, making use of some tables for the walls and tables for the floor.

Buffet style

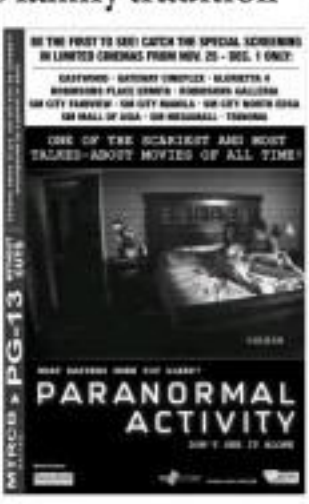
"The most interesting piece in the house is the dining table," said Joaquin. "This was originally built for a family with ten children. Dad noticed that during Sunday gatherings, some of his kids would bring their guitars. Mom knew space to be entertained it. There still will enough space, so we just spread the food, buffet style."

Joaquin has seven siblings—Rita, Aaron, Angela, Anda, Rudolph, Jose Gerardo, Ramon and Ramon.

"It's a good cook. Since Christmas ago, I bought my own kitchen pan. Nobody else uses it," Joaquin said. "I started out cooking pasta, then I discovered how to cook sauté. A good chef taught me."

Joaquin added: "My favorite spot has always been my room. It's my sanctuary. I like the sofa, too. It's really fun there during Sundays."

E-mail: marcos@inquirer.com.ph



"MY ROOM is my love spot, it's my sanctuary," says the actor-director.

THE HOME features a combination of Mexican and Spanish designs.

FOR JOAQUIN, this table is the most interesting piece in the house.

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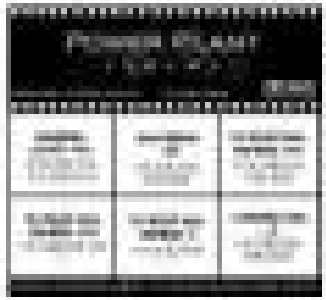
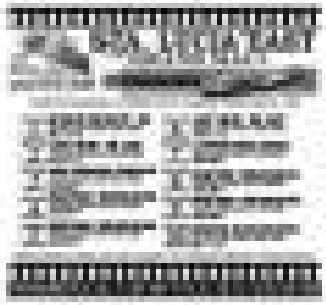
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

GIRL IN THE BIG LEAGUE

Oh, the thrills of being Charice!





Original Pinks' bids goodbye

Juice takes round 3

Songs, poetry for food victims

Maguire, Gyllenhaal, Portman are top-rate in 'Brothers'

LOS ANGELES—THRONE IS the names of Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman and 19-year-old Bailee Madison at the list of actors, touches for acting prizes in this awards season.

The four guys top-star performances in the "Brothers," Jim Sheri-

dan's remake of a 2004 Danish drama with the same title that was co-written and directed by Susanne Bier.

Tobey, a competent actor who has yet to earn major acting nominations, may finally turn things around with his portrayal of Sam Cahill, a straight-arrow brother and Marine captain whose he-

"BROTHERS" star Jake Gyllenhaal with Pi Jon Gen (from L): Jerry Lind, Elvis Jones, Carina Villacorta, Janet Mayuko

roism a third down in Afghanistan.

When Sam is presumed dead, his sibling, Tommy (Jake), the black sheep in the family, assumes newfound responsibility for his sister-in-law, Grace (Natalie) and two daughters (Bailee and Taylor Dean, who is also good).

Grace and Tommy are drawn to each other but unbeknownst to them, Sam is alive and held captive by Taliban fighters in Afghanistan and undergoes shattering experiences. When he is released, Sam comes home a different man, whose fits of rage and jealousy put the family's stock including Grace, Maguire and Mare Winningham as the brothers' mother and stepmom) on edge.

There is a very tense dining table scene that was cinematic. It is directed by Jim and acted by the years cast, with the character of Bailee, who was only 8 years old during the filming, as the standout.

Last weekend, Tobey, Jake, Jim, and the two young girls attended a cocktail reception at The Garden at the Four Seasons Hotel New York. Sth Spider-Man actor-turned-wife Jennifer, Ruby Sweetheart, now 2 years old, swinging in his arms as if her of his many, Jennifer Meyer (the couple has a son, Otis Tobias, 6 months old). Appearing relaxed, Tobey smiled as he talked about how he had to lose 20 pounds in three weeks' time (under the guidance of a nutritionist) for his scenes as a captive.

It happened during the 2007 holidays. Tobey said, "While everybody was enjoying their big meals and desserts, I was eating brussels sprouts and things and I was literally working out all day. It was to summit that it'll would stand up quickly, everything would start to go—fast and I'd have to grab something to hold on to."

Jake could only attend the early evening reception and not the premiere the following day because he had to go back to the set of a movie he is working on.

Natalie, on the other hand, missed the cocktails but was able to attend the premiere and then the party at the E. Astor's.

At the press con, she in New York, Tobey admitted that his role offered his most throughout the shoot. "I was engrossed in the film, my character and the subject matter," he said, laughing at first. "My wife said I was pretty unpleasant to be around with by a few months. I owe her an apology for that."

In preparation for his role, he said he talked to some Marines whose daughters were experiencing affected their postcard and family lives when their came home.

"I was so grateful for life and my family, the great love I have with my children and my wife and some of the great friends I have," he said. "It helped me realize, as I was talking to these people and hearing their stories, how fragile life is. And how fortunate I am to get to that."

On the very young yet extremely talented co-stars, Tobey gushed. "Bailee and Taylor are just so sweet and adorable. Taylor would come up with these great ideas. It was really interesting because they would be oftentimes beyond what you would think has knowledge of the story was. She would improvise on these things that help advance scenes. You'll be surprised."

He continued: "Bailee was just so amazing. I felt bad about how I had to treat both of them at times in some of our scenes. I had to be rough in them. They understood that we were acting. Bailee would break down. It was like I was breaking her heart. After the scene, through her tears, she'd start laughing, looking and smiling at me. I'd go over and give her a big hug. We had a really nice relationship. I really enjoy those little girls so much. They're so talented."

As for "Spider-Man 4," here's the scoop from the man himself: "We're working on the script right now. As far as I know, we'll start filming in late February or early March. I'm starting to train. After this (New York) trip, I'll go back home [to LA]" and his full stunt-ahead with physical preparation mode and management in terms of development of the character and the story."

(MORE) 2

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew E. Serafin

TOBEY Maguire, flanked by child actors Taylor Geare (left) and Bailee Madison, at The Garden of the Four Seasons Hotel in New York

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT
Belly Dancing
Belly dancing is a total body and mind, low-impact fat-burning exercise.
Belly dance moves have a purpose and are not meant to simply accentuate female traits.
Hip scarves provide a discreet signal that one may not be dating the drill right.
When doing chest or arm drills, no jiggling zones should come from the hip scarf or the chest or arm drill is an isolated movement from the hips.
For more interesting facts and purchase of belly wear and accessories, visit: www.LaDanzaFitness.com
Offers available only now. Survey quota, duties and any shipping charges, etc.
La Danza Fitness Shop
At The New Broadway Lookout
Second Floor, South Lobby
Santa Rosa Avenue, Greenhills
Phone: 570-0570
Store Hours: 9:00 - 9PM
Weekends Rest
La Danza

Jinkee takes round 3

FIRST THE WILD GOSSIP THEN THE FLAT denial. But this did not put out the fire, so f

Tuesday night, Jinkee Pacquiao spoke on nationwide television, effectively severing her husband Manny's earlier statement that rumored paramour Eman Bacolod is just a close friend.

To her credit, Jinkee was reluctant to tackle the issue. But when interviewer Angel Mislicol ("24 Oras," GMA 7) asked what she would say to Bacolod, given the chance, "round 3" seated — the unguarded outpouring.

Jinkee's oblique confirmation that all wasn't well did not escape... anyone. Speaking to Philippine, she added if any girl would be happy in a relationship with a married man, knowing that this could rip apart the man's family. Some

RUSHES SPECIAL

have even more direct than others: "Here young

there are many other things she can aspire for."

Last Sunday, Jinkee said on "Showbiz Central": "We're still talking about our problem." If any go by unstoppable online posts, a good portion that it's a Marian can mean problem.

A LITTLE prayer for Jinkee and Manny

Sales from scandal

LOS ANGELES—Adam Lambert was kicked off our morning TV show and snapped up by a deal three after his sexually-charged performance at the American Music Awards made him one of the most risky but most sought after celebrities in the United States.

The guy plum rocker from Waterloo Idol" caused a furor last Sunday with a sado-

(MORE) 2

JED MADELA
IN
THE GREATEST GIFT
DECEMBER 8, 2009
COCKTAILS AT THE CAPTAIN'S BAR
6:00 PM
CONCERT AT THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL BALLROOM
8:00 PM
FOR THE BENEFIT OF:
Artefice
Gawad Kalinga
TicketWorld
Media Partners:
105.1
UP
Philippine Star
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Philippine Graphic

NOW SHOWING
NINJA ASSASSIN
FROM THE CREATORS OF THE MATRIX TRILOGY